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The
National

Wool Grower

Volume XLVI

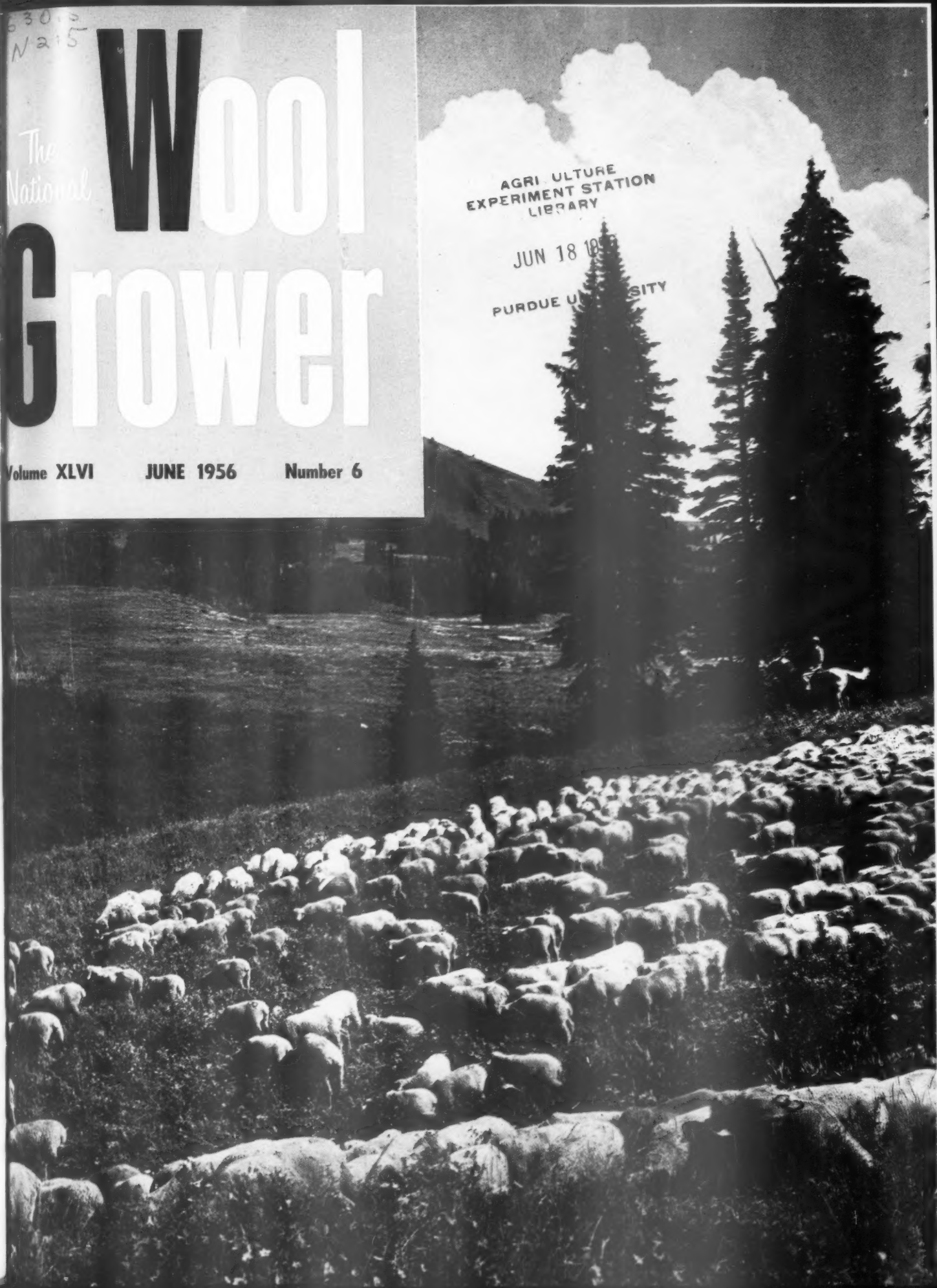
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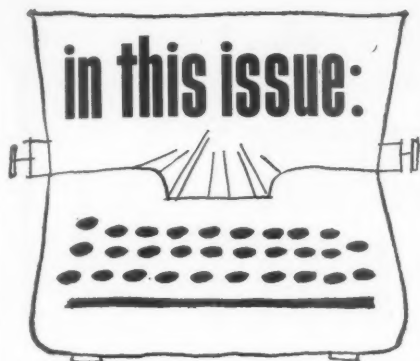
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NEW WOOL GRADE PROPOSALS:

An interesting text with helpful illustrations regarding the Department of Agriculture's proposals for new wool grades and standards is published in this issue beginning on page 14. Prominent wool expert, Elroy M. Pohle, prepared this information and delivered it first before the NWGA national convention in Fort Worth in January.

CLEVELAND LAMB SURVEY RESULTS:

Facts and figures compiled by the USDA in their recent sample survey regarding lamb eating and buying habits are contained in this issue on page 20.

This study was made primarily to aid the American Sheep Producers Council in their promotion of lamb.

FERTILITY IN RANGE RAMS:

Another interesting and val-

uable article from the studies and compilations of Dr. Earl L. Wiggins is in this issue on page 12.

All sheepmen, users of rams, should read the valuable results of the studies reported on by Dr. Wiggins. This material should be very helpful to you.

PLANT POISONING OF LIVESTOCK:

There's always a danger that poison plants will infest your ranges and/or that your livestock will become exposed to such plants.

You can read how to prevent losses from these poisonous plants and see pictures of a few in this issue on page 10.

SHEEP MANAGEMENT RESULTS:

Results of many experiments with sheep are reported in this issue on page 21. This is interesting material that may be helpful to you in your sheep operation.

A HEARTY PIONEER—ED STEVENSON

Author Lois Miller has captured the exciting undertone of the life of pioneer sheepman Edward C. Stevenson in the biography which appears in this issue on page 8. Stevenson, a 90-year-old Wyoming rancher, has had some thrilling experiences since the time he came to Wyoming in 1888.



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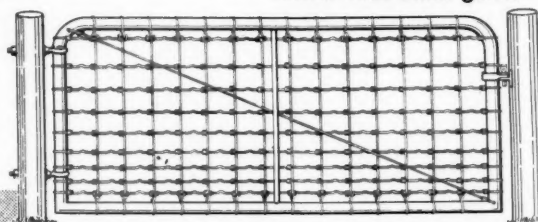
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PORTLAND PURCHASES UP

The Portland Wool Trade handled and consumed more wool in the first quarter of 1956 than they did in the same period of 1955. Figures, compiled by the Portland Chamber of Commerce for the local wool trade association, reveal that 2,350,000 pounds (grease basis) were received or handled by Portland dealers as compared to 1,850,000 pounds for the first quarter of last year. Local mills consumed 3,169,591 pounds (grease basis) as compared to 3,028,000 pounds consumed in the first three months of 1955.

NEW TAX COMMITTEE HEAD

Albert K. Mitchell, prominent cattleman of Albert, New Mexico, has been chosen by the National Live Stock Tax Committee, to serve as its chairman during the coming year. Mitchell fills the vacancy created by the death of Frank S. Boice early in April. Selection was made at the annual meeting of the group in Denver on May 15.

EWES TO ECUADOR

The Hixon Ranch Company of Ordway, Colorado, recently sold 125 purebred Rambouillet yearling ewes to the government of Ecuador. The animals were shipped by rail to Jacksonville, Florida and from there flown to the South American country where they will be used in a sheep breeding program.

MINIMUM RATES SUSPENDED

Minimum rates on carload lots of coarse grains—corn, oats, barley and various grain sorghums—in Western States were suspended indefinitely by the Interstate Commerce Commission the first week of May. The suspension, which covers the entire area west of the Mississippi River, was granted to permit the railroads to meet the rates charged by unregulated truckers. These truckers, it is reported, haul citrus fruits and vegetables north from

Texas and other areas; then purchase feed grains, carry them back and sell them at a profit. No specific reduction was set by the I.C.C., only the pattern of the rate floor set up in 1934 was suspended for the time being.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY CLIMBS

The textile mill products industry went along with all other industries in an upward climb during 1955. The dollar value of sales of textile mill products in 1955 was 14 percent above that of 1954, and the increase in profits, after taxes, was 204 percent—the highest of any industry. This great increase, of course, was due to the relatively low earnings of 1954.

Apparel and related products showed an increase of three percent in sales volume and 31 percent in profits, after taxes.

These figures were included in the annual financial report for U. S. manufacturing corporations issued on May 9, 1956, by the Federal Trade Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

U. P. AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Three outstanding Wyoming 4-H Club members have received \$100 scholarships from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Winners of the awards, named after former UP President Carl Raymond Gray, are Thomas Davidson, Laramie; Myra Ann Yorges, Yoder; and Eldon McWilliams, Hillsdale.

Alternates are James Farver, Laramie; Gordon Booth, Veteran; and Beverly Colgin, Cheyenne.

The awards go every year to a high school junior or senior with at least

three years of 4-H work. The Agricultural Extension Service's 4-H Club official judged their records of 4-H work, scholastic achievement, all-around citizenship, and character.

MEAT STUDIES

Senator Wallace F. Bennett of Utah, is urging Secretary of Agriculture Benson to order a study of the Federal meat grading system; says the present system is shutting grass-fed cattle out of the retail market.

Senator Bennett sponsored an amendment to the original agricultural bill which provided for such a study.

It has also been reported, but not officially confirmed, that the Senate Judiciary Anti-Trust Committee is planning a broad-scale probe into the trade practices in the meat and food industries.

RECORD GAS PURCHASES

Keeping complete records of gasoline used for farming and ranching purposes will pay off in taking advantage of the new Federal tax refund, says L. T. Wallace, extension economist at the Max C. Fleischmann College of Agriculture, University of Nevada.

The records will not only help in filling out the forms for claiming refunds, but may be essential in proving the claims if reviews are necessary.

Claims for refunds on gasoline used for farming and ranching between January 1 and June 30 may be filed any time after June 30. The deadline for filing claims for this period will be October 31. Hereafter, however, refunds will be made on the Government fiscal year basis—July 1 to June 30.

MARCH APPAREL WOOL USE

Consumption of apparel wool in March on the woolen and worsted systems averaged 5,880,000 pounds a week. In March last year the weekly rate was only 5,417,000 pounds. However, in February of this year, it was 6,398,000.

Consumption of noils, reprocessed and reused wool and other animal fibers averaged 3,261,000 pounds weekly in March in comparison with 3,153,000 pounds a year earlier and 3,263,000 pounds in February of this year.

Total consumption of raw wool on both systems in March averaged 8,750,000 pounds weekly. This was above the use in March, 1955, of 7,958,000 pounds weekly but below the February, 1956, weekly rate of 9,748,000 pounds.

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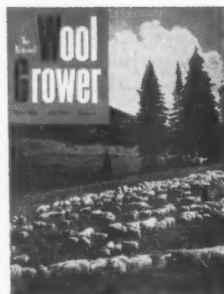
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"When it's springtime in the Rockies"... It's mighty beautiful, that's for sure. And the sheep think so too. Pictured on our June cover is a pastoral scene which was

taken in early spring in the high Uinta Mountains of Utah by Salt Lake photographer Hal Rumel.

Lush grazing such as this produces fat lambs. Gaze longingly at it, and then plan your operation to keep your range in as good a condition as possible.

The National Wool Grower

JUNE, 1956

Volume XLVI - Number 6

EDITOR: IRENE YOUNG

ASSISTANT EDITOR: T. R. CAPENER

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Wool Growers Association

414 CRANDALL BUILDING, SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members \$5.00 per year; 50 cents per copy. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

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Research News

Improved range pastures have produced nearly 70 pounds more lamb per acre than unimproved rangeland so far this year on the University of California Hopland Field Station.

Improved pastures have produced 81 pounds of lamb per acre, agronomist Milton B. Jones told some 200 ranchers and sheepmen attending the annual field day at the range research station May 9. Native range has produced only 12 pounds of lamb per acre.

The improved pastures were seeded to perennial grasses and legumes in 1952 and fertilized with nitrogen and phosphate each fall, Jones said.

In 1800 it took nine men on the farm to produce food for themselves and one other person. At that time 80 percent of the population lived on the farm. Today, with less than 13 percent of the population on the farm, one farmer produces for himself and 17 others. This shows the trend toward automation.

A thin film of cetyl alcohol over a dam or reservoir can save up to 70 percent of the water from evaporation under Australia's blazing sun. This discovery has been made by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. It may prove of great value to sheepmen and other farmers operating in hot and dry parts of the world.

M. W. Mansfield, who has been responsible for the research, is visiting Texas to show research workers there how the system works. The thin cetyl alcohol film over the water prevents its transfer into the air, but does not prevent oxygen being dissolved from the air to keep the water fresh.

Lamb losses can be cut by supplemental feeding of ewes before and after lambing and by sheltering sheep and lambs during the night, according to Donald T. Torell, animal husbandman at the University of California's Hopland Station.

To produce the heaviest possible lambs for an early market, northcoast sheep ranchers should provide supplemental feed to pregnant and lactating ewes, he said. In January and February, the ranges are green, but not very nutritious. Supplemental feed to

ewes will provide more milk to help lambs grow faster.

Thirty to 40 percent of the new-born lambs running on the open range died during the storms this past winter at Hopland, Torell said. But all the sheltered lambs lived.

First-year results on control of weeds with propane burners show promising results, says F. L. Timmons at the University of Wyoming. Timmons is regional coordinator for the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA.

Burning of alfalfa stubble after first cutting gave 80 to 90 percent control of dodder (plant parasites). The method seemed to be more effective than any of the chemical treatments tried in comparison. Moderate burning requiring two minutes to cover a square rod gave best results in tests with a single-unit burner.

In view of the recent outbreak of rabies in Pennsylvania, Dr. Samuel B. Guss, extension veterinarian of that State, points out that it is not necessarily a disease of hot weather. Rabies is transmitted by the bite of an animal. The virus is in the saliva. Dr. Guss recommends vaccination of all dogs, as they are the animals most likely to transmit the disease to humans. A new type dog-protecting vaccine has been developed that works for three years. Aside from the danger to humans and dogs, rabies can cause heavy losses among livestock.

More intensified research to exploit the natural advantages of farms and ranches as the most logical place to begin the use of solar energy was urged by two research experts in this field, at the winter meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

F. H. Buelow and J. S. Boyd, agricultural engineers at Michigan State University, discussed "Heating of Air With Solar Energy." Solar energy on the farm would provide many advantages, they said. "Energy requirements per unit area are not high on the farm, and temperatures required for drying products and ventilation are lower than in other applications. There are also possibilities for year-round use of the collected energy, such as for drying hay

and grain in the summer and fall, and for supplying supplemental heat to farm buildings in the spring and winter," the engineers concluded.



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Washington, D. C. Efforts Turn To Textile Labeling Hearings

ONE-day hearings on textile labeling measures called Executive Secretary Marsh to Washington on May 16. Coming in from a part of the ram sale consignors' tour late the night of the 14th, he flew to Washington on the 15th for the hearings.

They were held by a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and covered two bills—H.R. 9987, H.R. 11085.

H.R. 9987, introduced by Congressman Smith of Mississippi in March of this year would fully protect the Wool Products Labeling Act. H.R. 11085 which Congressman Priest of Tennessee introduced May 8 "on request," would repeal all labeling acts including that covering wool products and set up fiber identification requirements for all textile fibers. Under it the requirement for labeling to show the content of reprocessed and reused wool in fabrics or garments would be eliminated.

Secretary Marsh told the committee that the National Wool Growers Association could endorse H.R. 9987 but would have to oppose the passage of H.R. 11085 and filed a statement showing the reason for our position.

Chairman Arthur G. Klein of the subcommittee stated that the Department of Commerce and Agriculture had said they had no objection to H.R. 9987. The Federal Trade Commission also filed a statement with the committee in support of this measure. Others testifying on May 16 in behalf of H.R. 9987 included J. Banks Young of the National Cotton Council of America, John Lynn of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and J. A. Crowder for the Boston Wool Trade Association, the Philadelphia Wool and Textile Association and the National Wool Trade Association.

The Priest bill (H.R. 11085) is backed by the National Retail Dry Goods Association and the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Dr. Jules Labarthe of the retail association and Edward Wilkinson of the manufacturers' group testified in its behalf at the May 16 hearings.

With so many major pieces of legislation yet to be acted upon by Congress before adjourning, it is considered doubtful by some that any textile labeling bill will be able to secure passage at this session. But as always your National and State Associations will be on the alert in protecting the interests of wool growers should such legislation commence to move forward.

The major portion of Secretary Marsh's statement on H.R. 9987 and H.R. 11085 which he filed with the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce follows:

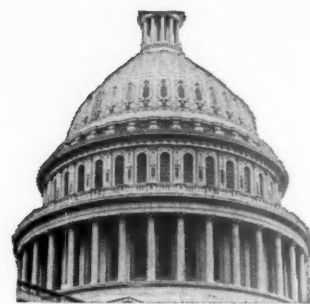
Supplementary statement of Edwin E. Marsh, executive secretary, National Wool Growers Association, for the Subcommittee on Commerce and Finance of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce concerning H.R. 9987 and H.R. 11085.

H.R. 9987 is a bill which we are most happy to endorse. It offers consumers of fabrics other than those containing wool, benefits and protection similar to those which they have enjoyed for the past sixteen years under the Wool Products Labeling Act. We believe that consumers are entitled to proper labeling of all textile fiber products to aid them in their purchases.

We also endorse the amendment to H.R. 9987 suggested at the hearings on May 16th by Mr. J. A. Crowder representing the Boston, Philadelphia and National Wool Trade Associations. This is the amendment specifying that whenever wool products subject to the Wool Products Labeling Act are advertised, the advertisement would have to contain a statement setting forth the fiber content of the product in the same manner as is now required on the fiber content tag or label attached to the wool product. This particular specification for textile fiber products other than those containing wool is set forth in H.R. 9987. This suggested amendment would extend the advantages of this requirement to textile fiber products containing wool.

H.R. 11085, however, is a bill which we cannot endorse and one to which we are unalterably opposed. This bill, if passed, would emasculate the very beneficial Wool Products Labeling Act which has been protecting consumers of wool products from its inception in 1940. The Wool Products Labeling Act became law only after many years of effort on the part of our Association and other agricultural and industry organizations. In fact, the idea of setting forth the truth in the labeling of fabrics was before Congress for about 30 years before the Wool Products Labeling Act became law in 1940.

The Wool Products Labeling Act requires products containing wool (with certain specified exceptions) to be la-



JUNE, 1956

beled to show the percentage of new wool, reprocessed wool, reused wool and any other fibers present.

Reprocessed wool is derived from certain wastes and swatches accumulated in textile manufacturing, plus new scraps and clips from garment manufacturers and tailors, none of which have ever actually been used. These are then ground up into a fibrous state and converted into yarns, and knitted, woven or felted fabrics.

Reused wool is wool that has been previously used by consumers and then ground up and remanufactured into a woven, knitted or felted product. It represents ordinary used rags collected by rag dealers who sorted these old rags according to the type of goods, their color and their weight. These rags then go to a shoddy mill or are processed by the textile manufacturer using them.

H.R. 11085 has been introduced at the request of industry organizations desiring to eliminate the requirements that products containing reprocessed wool or reused wool must be so labeled. They want all of it labeled "wool." At least, that is one of the reasons why the groups sponsoring this legislation are desirous of its passage, although the preamble of the bill states that one of the purposes of the legislation is to protect consumers against misbranding of textile fiber products.

There is no doubt of the fact that there is a place in the market for fabrics containing blends of reprocessed or reused wool, and if such materials are fairly priced, and if such blends are as worthy as their proponents claim, we believe they will sell and continue to sell. We merely state that they should be properly labeled so that their performance can be rightly judged.

In order to understand this problem it is necessary to consider for a moment the nature of wool. Each individual wool fiber has an outer protective coating like the bark of a tree. These outer scales slip in and out like the parts of a telescope, allowing the fiber to be stretched to 30 percent of its length and then returned to its original dimension. This characteristic provides

a resiliency that is reflected in fine draping and tailoring. The inner portion of the fiber is composed of countless individual cells that are interlaced and which slip in and out like the leaves of a spring when the fiber is bent. This characteristic provides a resistance to wrinkles. Furthermore, as the individual fibers are felted together in the manufacturing process, the individual outer scale formations interlock in such a manner as to entrap countless thousands of minute air spaces, which provides wool with its unusual thermal qualities. When wool fibers are ground up into a fibrous state to form reprocessed or reused wool, the scale formation, the inner cells and the fibers themselves are inevitably broken, damaged, frayed and weakened. Therefore, such reprocessed or reused wool is inevitably poorer in performance than the new wool from which it was originally obtained.

The conclusion cannot be escaped that the fundamental difference between new wool and previously manufactured and used wool is the fundamental difference between new and previously used materials of like grades and qualities; just as a new Cadillac is better than a second-hand Cadillac and a new Chevrolet is better than a second-hand Chevrolet.

Claims have also been made by those attempting to repeal these labeling requirements that wool rags are being shipped from the United States to foreign countries, are made into wool fabrics and are shipped back into this country represented as products containing new wool. We seriously doubt that such a deceptive practice is widespread. If it is, then the Federal Trade Commission should certainly investigate and bring charges. The statement that there are no known laboratory methods for determining the presence of reprocessed or reused wool present in any wool product has been contradicted by J. R. Mohler, former Chief of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. In a letter addressed to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, on March 18, 1939, and included in the record of the hearings on the Wool Labeling Act, Dr. Mohler, replying to questions which the Committee asked him, wrote in part as follows: "The percentage of virgin wool and reworked wool in a fabric may be determined. Based upon the Bureau's research with microscopical methods upon fabrics of known fiber content in which only new and reworked wool are present, the content of reworked wool or virgin wool may be detected within 10 percent."

The claim that the public is being deceived by mis-labeled imports is no

grounds to repeal provisions of the Wool Products Labeling Act, thus paving the way for greater deception than may now exist.

In conclusion we should like to call your attention to these important facts:

1. The consuming public without the requirement for labeling of reused and reprocessed wool would be deceived into thinking they were buying a product made of new wool and, following poorer service, could become alienated to wool.
2. The manufacturer who uses new wool should be protected against unfair competition from manufacturers using reprocessed and reused wool.
3. The elimination of reprocessed and

reused labeling requirements could further lessen the use of new wool and weaken the domestic wool market, which is already 20 to 25 cents per clean pound below the cost of comparable foreign wool landed in Boston.

The main purpose of labeling legislation is to protect the consuming public from deception and fraud. We therefore respectfully urge that your committee not report out H.R. 11085, which would greatly cripple the public benefits and protection afforded by the Wool Products Labeling Act. We also respectfully urge that you approve H.R. 9987 with the suggested amendment outlined in this statement.

The Saddle Horse is Passing in Australia



THE stockman in the sparse outback of inland Australia is still in the saddle—but there's a motor-bike where the horse used to be.

On the sheep and cattle stations of South Australia and Northern Territory most of the mustering is done by jeep, land rover and motor-bike.

The motor-bike era began after World War II on the desert property of Wilgena, South Australia. Mr. A. J. McBride gave his stockmen motor-bikes to beat the loneliness of boundary-riding and mustering on the vast property where area is measured by the square-mile.

Three stockmen on motor cycles recently drove 3,000 sheep 80 miles from McDouall Peak Station to the railhead at Kingoonya in outback South Australia.

The head stockman was a 32-year-old half-caste, Martin Dodd, a respected and reliable worker who told a Melbourne Herald reporter on the trail:

"The motor-bike is quicker when you've got hundreds—and sometimes thousands—of square miles to cover mustering sheep.

"If they are well looked after they stand up to a lot of hard wear. But when we are droving the bikes are no quicker than the horse, because our speed is governed by the sheep. But we usually cover about 10 miles a day.

"We don't use dogs because it is just as easy to round up the strays on the bikes," he said.

Mr. Glenn Rankin, of Ingomar Station, where Martin Dodd is employed, said, "Stockmen are not the horsemen they used to be—station methods here have changed in recent years."

WHEN THE FIRST TRAIN ROARED INTO NEWCASTLE, WYOMING IN 1888, ED STEVENSON WAS ON BOARD

Portrait of a Rugged Pioneer

by LOIS MILLER

PIONEER ranchmen were rugged individuals. They had to be, to surmount the many setbacks they met along the way. They not only took things in their stride but came up fighting. It is due to their courage that the frontiers were tamed and settled.

Edward C. Stevenson is typical of those pioneer ranchmen. After 67 years "cowpoking" and ranching, Stevenson, now 90 years old, still lives on his ranch near Moorcroft, Wyoming. He is alert and an entertaining conversationalist.

"I came into the sandhills in 1886 when I was 20. It was big cow country then, and still is. I worked for the Cross L. Bar Ranch owned exclusively by the late B. M. Faddis," Stevenson recalls.

"When the first train roared into Newcastle, Wyoming, in 1888 I was on board. Two years later I landed in Moorcroft and bought my first band of sheep, 600 head."

Stevenson settled on the same ranch where he now lives. He chuckles as he tells of experiences which would have floored many men.

"It was the winter of 1911 and '12 and I fed a big band of sheep all winter and was doing all right. Things looked good on our ranch, and it was springtime.

"But on April 13th the weather clobbered with no warning and a roaring blizzard beat down. It lasted three whole days. My sheep got away from the herder and 1800 head drifted into the swollen river. All but 400 were lost."

At first it looked as if Stevenson would have to give up and quit, but he thought otherwise. He owed the Newcastle bank \$10,000 for feed, so he went to the banker and told him that unless they would stake him to another band of sheep he would have no way of paying off.

Stevenson says to this day he can still visualize that old banker, J. L. Baird, well known to Newcastle folks at that time. Baird walked the floor and every few minutes stopped to scratch his head. Then more walking, and some comments:

"Not only you, Ed, but every stockman in the country. I don't know what to do." Baird walked some more, then:

"I know you're a good ranchman and if you live you'll pay out. If you die you leave everybody in a terrible mess."

The banker went on to explain tactfully how he would hate to swoop down and take Ed's holdings from the family in the latter case, but he would have to do just that.

"Well I took the hint," Stevenson says. "I went right out and took a \$10,000 insurance policy on my life, made payable to the bank. Then I went around to see Baird and explained that if I died the policy would leave him sitting pretty good."

"Baird hesitated a little then said to the cashier: 'Fix Ed up.'"

Stevenson proved he was a good stockman, for exactly five years later he went into the bank, paid off his indebtedness in full and still had five thousand dollars left on deposit!

For some years the family lived in a small house, then Ed built the beautiful seventeen room house they now have. He recalls that the doors and windows and finished lumber came from Sioux City, Iowa.

He always loved horses and had a burning ambition to own a herd, but by the time that ambition crystallized to reality, the automobiles came in and Ed sold the horses.

He took quite a beating on the horses as they brought two dollars and a half per head. Once he traded 50 head of horses for an old car. He always rode horseback a good deal, and rode some this year.

This pioneer stockman has seen Moorcroft, Newcastle and Upton, Wyoming grow from huddles of shacks to thriving towns. He recalls the early day wars between sheepmen and cattlemen.

Once his own herd was fired on and he was invited to leave the country. He isn't the kind who bluffs, so he stayed. There was a notorious outlaw known as Diamond L Slim, and Ed recalls him vividly:

"In 1902 I was taking horses to winter at Punkin Buttes when I met a man on the road. I told him I was a stranger without either bedroll or grub and asked him if he knew where I could stay the night. 'Sure,' he said, and directed me to a place.

"He said there'd be nobody home, but I'd find the key under a rock at the left side of the door. He even trusted me with the secret of where he kept his baking powder so I could make some biscuits."

Stevenson says that man was the outlaw Diamond L Slim and "at the time I thought he was a pretty nice guy."

Life on the ranch was still good as the years tallied up for Ed Stevenson, and when he was 85 he bought a tractor to use to plow the garden. He still uses it for that purpose as he says he ought to get some good out of it.

In 1917 Mrs. Stevenson died, and Ed stayed with the ranch and reared their



A HOME AND A TRACTOR

Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Stevenson are pictured above by their tractor in the yard. He is 90. Stevenson built the house shown in the lower left hand corner in Wyoming many years ago.

eight children, five girls and three boys. Nine years ago he met an attractive widow who also had five girls and three boys!

The two married, and the rafters of the old house ring when the 16 children plus mates and progeny come home to visit!

Stevenson has never had an illness of any kind in his whole life, and he attributes that and his longevity to plenty of work on the ranch and good wholesome living. He drives his own car, and sits "straight and tall" as he sits in the saddle or on the tractor.

In his ranching years he has seen fences come into style to stay, and many other changes in ranch life. The ranch is in a treeless area, but many years ago Stevenson planted trees around the house. Today those trees tower like giants high above the house.

Ed had faith in the land and many years ago he planted an orchard which furnishes lots of apples regularly. It is one of the very few orchards in the area.

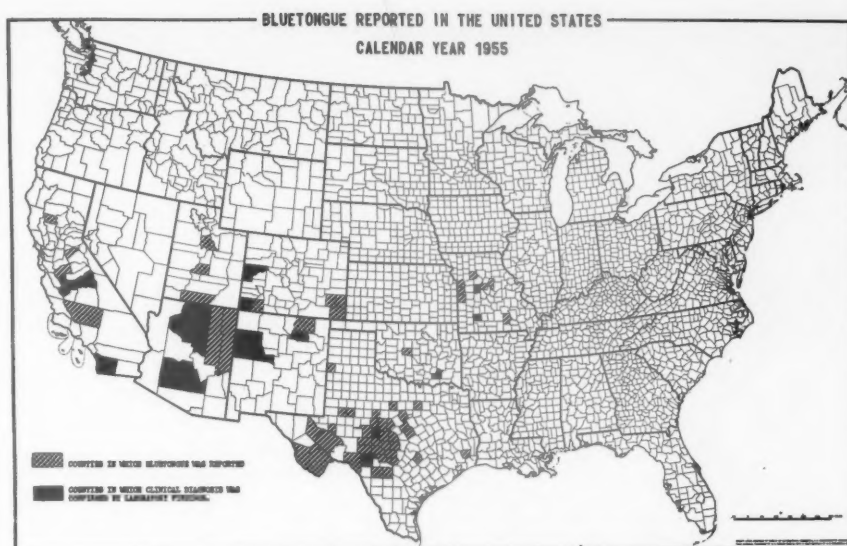
Although he has now rented out 6,400 acres of his ranch, they still live on the place, retaining land for a garden, chickens and some geese that roam the place.

"I believe in God and enjoy life, so I'd really like to live to be a hundred years old," is the way he sums it up. He has fulfilled his civic obligations by serving on various boards and as a member of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. Ed Stevenson at 90 shows no symptoms of taking to a rocker in the chimney corner!

INDIANS AWARDED \$100,000

The U. S. Supreme Court decided a 6-year old Navajo Indian case on May 7. The Court unanimously reinstated an award of \$100,000 to the Navajo Indians because agents of the Bureau of Land Management destroyed 116 horses and 38 burros of the Indians in lower San Juan County, Utah. The case involved the use by Indian sheep of Taylor Grazing District lands in an area where white stockmen had Federal licenses to graze their animals.

Judge Willis W. Ritter, when the case was originally tried before the U. S. District Court in Salt Lake City, awarded \$100,000 damages to the Indians. Later the U. S. Circuit Court in Denver set aside the award and the Indians' appeal was carried to the Supreme Court.



Blue Tongue Season Begins

THIS is the beginning of the season when sheepmen should look out for blue tongue. The map shows where it occurred in 1955.

Blue tongue, you will recall, is a sheep disease of South Africa where it has taken a heavy toll. The first noted outbreaks in the United States were in Texas in 1948, but it was not until 1953 that serious losses from blue tongue occurred in California, Arizona and Texas and to a smaller extent in Colorado and New Mexico.

In the spring of that year, Dr. R. A. Alexander, director of the Veterinarian Services of the Union of South Africa, and the world's top authority on blue tongue, spent several weeks in the United States assisting the Department of Agriculture in making a survey of the disease here.

A vaccine has been developed to combat blue tongue and is now being used with considerable success in some sections. Unfortunately, in its early use in California, there were some losses in new-born lambs in flocks in which ewes were four to eight weeks pregnant at the time of vaccination against blue tongue. This alerted everyone to the fact that ewes must be vaccinated prior to the breeding season.

Blue tongue is not contagious through contact but is carried by culicoides or gnats. These insects, while not able to fly great distances themselves, are blown by winds. Little is known about them.

Blue tongue is characterized by ulcerations around the lips and nose, a nasal discharge, sore feet, emaciation, deterioration of the shoulder muscle and

drooping of the ear. The tongue actually appears to be reddish purple in color rather than blue. Outbreaks occur usually during the summer and fall months and stop suddenly with the first frost.

Ten flocks in five counties of Arizona were infected during June to October, 1955. About 7.75 percent of the 11,130 sheep in the flocks were affected and 1.3 percent of them died.

In California blue tongue was diagnosed in 147 sheep in eight flocks; 65 of them died. The disease occurred between July and October.

Blue tongue occurred in Colorado between August and November 1955 in 13 flocks composed of 2,025 head. The occurrence of the disease varied from four to 70 percent in the different flocks and the death loss from one to 30 percent.

Seven flocks had blue tongue in New Mexico from September to October. Of the 2,359 sheep in the flocks, 2.6 percent had the disease and .017 percent died.

Blue tongue appeared in every month somewhere in Texas during 1955. Of the 488 flocks involved, 50 percent or 11,234 head were affected; one percent died.

In Utah blue tongue was reported in five flocks in three counties during September and October.

Sheep of all ages were involved in the 1955 outbreaks except in Missouri where it occurred mostly in lambs.

(The map and statistics on 1955 outbreaks of blue tongue are taken from a recent report of the Animal Disease Eradication Branch of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.)



CHOCKECHERRY (*PRUNUS VIRGINIANA*). Commonly found along a heavily used sheep trail.



DEATH CAMAS. This plant starts growth very early in the spring causing heavy losses in sheep when they are turned on the range too early before other forage has started to grow.



HALOGETON (*HALOGETON GLOMERATUS*). Almost a 100 percent stand along a fence line.

PLANT POISONING OF LIVESTOCK

by WAYNE BINNS, D.V.M.

Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Logan, Utah.

THE loss of cattle and sheep from eating poisonous plants is a major economical problem to the livestock industry, especially on the ranges of the Western States. The losses are usually localized and it is only occasionally that a large number of animals are affected at one time, but the continual mortality caused by poisonous plants makes this an important problem to all livestock owners.

As a general rule, if cattle or sheep are allowed to graze freely when plenty of desirable forage is available, they will carefully select the forage and pass up the poisonous plants as they are less palatable.

There is much to be learned concerning the feeding habits of grazing animals as to why they have a tendency to eat certain plants at one time and not another. It is thought that extreme heat, cold, drought, certain nutritional deficiencies, and inadequate salt or water may influence the animal's appetite and be the cause of its eating enough poisonous plants to cause losses from plant poisoning on what was ordinarily considered a "safe" range.

There is a wide variation in the toxicity of poisonous plants and in the

amount necessary to cause sickness or death. Most poisonous plants kill animals only if they are eaten in large quantities. Some act as a rapid poison; others must be eaten daily over a considerable period of time to cause harmful effects, while amounts well below the toxic dose may be eaten by the animals over a long period without harmful effects. Many poisonous plants start their growth early in the spring and some are more toxic at that time than at any other season of the year.

On overstocked ranges the available desirable forage decreases rapidly, and if the overgrazing is continued, along with periodic droughts, the palatable plants are soon destroyed. This permits a rapid increase of the more nonpalatable forage and poisonous plants. Animals turned on the ranges too early in the spring before the grass and other palatable forage have a chance to start growth, often find only the early poisonous plants in a green stage which may be readily eaten and cause heavy losses.

Hungry Animals Suffer

Hungry cattle or sheep should never be bedded overnight or unloaded from cars or turned out after being corralled for long periods into areas where poisonous plants are available, for most hungry animals will eat the first green

forage they come to, regardless of its type. Young animals are more frequently poisoned on plants than older animals. Imported or strange animals often suffer more losses from plant poisoning than do the native animals. Whenever animals are driven long distances and not allowed to spread out and graze freely as they go, they will grab at forage not ordinarily eaten, and if they should pass through areas where poisonous plants are present, the animals may eat enough to cause losses.

There are many animals that die on the ranges each year from a number of different causes, but when two or three animals or more are found dead or sick in the same area or there is a continued loss of one or two animals a week, then every effort should be made to determine the cause of the deaths. This may be done most effectively by having an individual who is trained in range management and plant identification and a veterinarian work together along with the owner.

A definite, clear-cut diagnosis of poisonous plants is seldom possible by merely observing the sick or dead animals. The range should be surveyed for poisonous plants. The surveyors should determine if any poisonous plants found have been grazed off, the type of animals affected, the season

of the year, and the conditions under which the losses occurred. Symptoms should be studied and post-mortem examinations made of affected animals to prove or disprove the possibility of the cause being a parasite or infectious disease. A chemical analysis of the stomach contents is seldom of value in determining which poisonous plant is responsible. Occasionally small pieces of plants can be identified from the stomach contents which may serve as a direct lead to the diagnosis, but the final diagnosis can only be made after all the facts are put together.

The treatment of animals suffering from poisonous plants is seldom attempted under range conditions because the affected animals are usually not observed until they are in the terminal stages of poisoning or dead. Individual range animals are difficult to handle unless proper facilities are available. The sick animals are seldom found around a corral, and the range is usually a long distance from a town where one must go to obtain assistance. The immediate solution to stop the losses after a diagnosis of poisonous plants has been made, is to prevent the animals from eating the poisonous plants, but this is not always immediately possible under range conditions.

General Rules

Methods of controlling poisonous plant losses will differ from one range to another, but there are a few general rules that will apply to all owners, all animals, and all ranges if they are conscientiously applied.

1. All livestockmen should first learn to recognize the important poisonous plants. This may be done by obtaining a bulletin on the common poisonous plants of your State which is published by the Extension Service or Experiment Station of the Agricultural College in your State. Then, if possible, consult a range management specialist who is trained in plant identification and familiar with the range practices in your State to make a survey of your range for poisonous plants and discuss methods for range improvement.

2. The range should be inspected before animals are turned onto it in the spring to make sure the grass and other forage has made sufficient growth to supply the needs of the animals.

3. Avoid driving animals too fast when trailing long distances. They should be allowed to spread out and graze as they go along. If feed is not available along the trail, they should be stopped and fed, for hungry animals will often eat most any green forage they come to, and too often it is only poisonous plants that are available along heavily used trails.

4. Inspect all proposed bed grounds

for poisonous plants. Never bed hungry animals where poisonous plants are available.

5. Never allow animals to be turned out that have been held in a corral for long periods or unloaded from cars into areas where they have access to poisonous plants.

6. Do not water thirsty animals in areas where poisonous plants are present unless a liberal supply of feed is available. Thirsty animals will often eat many nonpalatable plants immediately after they are watered which they would not do under ordinary conditions.

7. Avoid the use of old, heavily used bed grounds and water holes, old salting areas, old established trails or any place where animals have congregated over long periods of time and killed out all the palatable forage in the area.

8. Have salt and steamed bone meal available for the animals at all times in adequate containers.

Livestockmen should always be alert for poisonous plants. Whenever plants are found which are suspected of being poisonous, but their identification is unknown, they should be collected and taken to the county agricultural agent. If he is unable to identify them for you, he can tell you where they can be sent for identification, or you may send the plant samples direct to the Agricultural Research Service, Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, Veterinary Science Department, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah. For this is the location of the U. S. Poisonous Plant Experiment Station which was formerly located in Salina Canyon near Salina, Utah.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLECTING AND SHIPPING PLANT SPECIMENS FOR IDENTIFICATION

1. If possible, the entire plant should be collected, including the leaves, flowers, roots, fruits, and seeds. If a plant is too large, send one or two representative branches with the leaves, flowers, and if possible, the seeds.

2. The plant should be laid out flat between two pages of a newspaper, then pressed tight between two pieces of cardboard the same size as the pages of the paper and protected from being folded in shipment.

3. A general statement of size of plant, color of flowers, and location where it was collected should be included.

4. If two or more kinds of plants are to be sent at the same time, each one should be pressed separately and numbered with a corresponding number on the brief description of the plant.

FEDERAL LAND LEASE ORDER

Federally owned farm lands can no longer be leased for growing surplus and price-supported crops. An order stopping such leasing was issued by President Eisenhower on May 21, according to a press statement.

No existing lease will be ended, but new leases starting 60 days from the date of the order will prohibit the cultivation of crops that are in surplus and for which price supports are in effect.

From a million and a half to two million acres of land, it is said, will be affected by the order.



HERE ARE A FEW OF THE TOP POSTERS entered in the 1956 National Meat Poster Contest for high school students. The contest, an educational project sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, attracted 21,839 entries from 1,249 high schools in 47 States. The winning poster, submitted by Glenn Neal Falk of Windber High School, Windber, Pa., was built around the theme, "Meat Makes Muscle to Turn Industry's Wheels."

FERTILITY IN RANGE RAMS

- Little Difference in Age Groups
- Ram Allotments May be High
- Top Ram Lambs Can be Used

by EARL L. WIGGINS
United States Department of
Agriculture¹

"ARE mature rams more fertile than yearlings?" "How many ewes can be allotted to a mature ram in pen-breeding?" "Is it safe to use ram lambs in breeding—if so how many ewes can they handle?"

To obtain answers to some of these questions the breeding records of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station rams were examined. Usable records were available on 1109 rams bred to 31,473 ewes in the 15-year period 1936 to 1950 inclusive.

The semen of all rams was examined before the beginning of the breeding season. In most cases only those rams whose semen appeared to indicate that they were potentially highly fertile were used in breeding. During the breeding season of about 30 to 35 days the rams ran with the ewes in panel pens or small pastures. With the exception of ram lambs which were fed a moderate amount of grain, the rams received the same feed as the ewes during breeding—hay in pens or forage in the pastures.

Fertility of Rams in Different Years

The overall 15-year average percentage of ewes lambing (of ewes present at lambing) was 90.7 (table 1). The yearly percentages ranged from a low of 87.9 in 1946 to a high of 93.7 in 1950. There did not appear to be any definite trend in fertility over the period of study. Averages by 5-year periods were 90.97, 90.62 and 90.68 for the first, second and third periods, respectively. This means that if any factors were operating to cause a long-time upward trend in fertility (for example, im-

¹U. S. Sheep Experiment Station and Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Dubois, Idaho, in cooperation with the University of Idaho.



Rams on spring range before shearing.

provements in management and/or nutrition) they must have been canceled out by other factors that were operating to decrease fertility at about the same rate.

Many range sheepmen think that lamb production in any given year is influenced by the previous year's production so that a year of low lamb production is followed by a year of high lamb production and vice-versa. There was little support for such an idea in the data studied.

Little Difference in Fertility of Rams of Different Ages

The ages of rams included in this study ranged from about seven months (ram lambs) to nine years. Rams four years old and older had the highest percentage of ewes lambing and were followed in order by two-year-olds, yearlings, lambs and three-year-olds. However, the differences in fertility of rams of different ages were not very great. Statistical tests show that these differences could be merely a matter of chance. In an earlier study of fertility in this same flock Terrill and Stoehr also found no definite change in fertility due to age of ram. Thus it appears that there are no really important differences in fertility of rams of different ages under the system of management followed at this Station.

However, it should be remembered that the animals included in this study were selected for use partly because they had semen of good quality. The fertility of these selected rams may not be entirely indicative of the relative fertility of unselected rams of the same ages. Furthermore, rams two years old and older also had the advantage of previous culling for fertility in actual breeding because all rams whose breeding records were poor at yearling or older ages were sold for slaughter before the next breeding season. Thus each succeeding age group

had the benefit of an increasing number of cullings for poor fertility. This might tend to improve the breeding performance of the older rams above the level that would have prevailed without prior culling.

In view of the insignificant differences in fertility between rams of different ages in these data and the likelihood that most of the bias, if any, would be in favor of older rams, there appears to be little support for the belief of some sheepmen that older rams are of higher fertility or may safely be bred to larger number of ewes than younger rams.

Fertility of Ram Lambs

Breeding records of a total of 135 ram lambs were included in the study. In two cases ram lambs were of satisfactory fertility when bred to more than 40 ewes and the average fertility was also satisfactory for 24 other lambs that were bred in pens of 30 to 39 ewes. However, it is emphasized that these lambs were the older, larger lambs from their respective groups. Furthermore, they had demonstrated their ability and desire to mate under rather artificial conditions and had been found to have semen of reasonably high quality before they were used in breeding. Therefore, these results should not be interpreted as being representative of the breeding performance of ram lambs in general. The results do indicate, however, that some ram lambs may be used in breeding with entirely satisfactory results particularly if facilities are available to determine before breeding that they have the ability and desire to mate and have semen of reasonably good quality. The use of ram lambs in breeding will be examined in greater detail in another article.

Fertility of Rams Bred to Different Numbers of Ewes

The number of ewes allotted to a

The National Wool Grower

single ram during a breeding season of approximately 30 days ranged from five to 65. For study the pens of different sizes were grouped in multiples of 10 ewes, that is less than 10, 10 to 19, 20 to 29 ewes, etc.

The average percentage of ewes lambing in the two groups containing 50 or more ewes was slightly lower than any of the pen groups of smaller numbers of ewes (table 2). However, the number of rams involved was quite small. There was no trend in fertility with increasing numbers of ewes up to 50. Thus it appears that individual rams whose semen is known to be of good quality at the beginning of the breeding season can be pen-bred to at least 50 ewes in a 30-day breeding season without any adverse effect on fertility. The reduction in fertility appears to be slight when as many as 65 ewes are bred to a single ram, if indeed, there is any real decrease at all. It seems likely that the number of ewes that could be bred to one ram could be increased by hand-mating or by extending the breeding season.

In an earlier study at this Station the practice of removing the rams in the daytime and letting them run with the ewes only at night resulted in a decrease of 4.5 percent in the percentage of ewes lambing. Apparently any benefit the rams may have gained by being allowed to rest in the daytime was more than canceled out by such things as some ewes having short heat periods (coming in and going out of heat while the rams were removed), excessive sexual activity while they were with the ewes, etc. Therefore, this practice cannot be recommended as a means of increasing the number of ewes that can be bred to a single ram.

Interpretation of Results

These data do not indicate that there are important differences in the fertility of rams of different ages. Furthermore, it seems likely that with the exception of ram lambs, most of the bias would probably be in favor of the older rams. Therefore, it appears that fertility in a flock would not be decreased and might even be increased by the extensive use of young rams (yearlings and two-year-olds). This is important since the rate of improvement from selection is usually most rapid when the generation interval of rams is kept as short as possible. These data also indicate that selected ram lambs can be used without lowering the fertility of the flock.

These data do not indicate any decrease in fertility when rams are bred to increasing numbers of ewes up to 50. There was some indication that the average fertility was lower in pens of 50

to 65 ewes although too few rams were used to definitely establish this point. However, in an earlier study where the number of ewes ranged from five to 93 and the average number was 48, Terrill and Stoehr did find that fertility was somewhat lower in pens containing very large numbers of ewes. More data are needed on the breeding performances of rams bred to large numbers of ewes to determine the largest number of ewes that can be bred to a single ram without a decrease in fertility.

While it is true that the rams in this study were bred in pens or small pastures and were known to have semen of acceptable quality before breeding began, the results of this study and the study by Terrill and Stoehr suggest that the often recommended allotment of three rams per 100 ewes in range breeding might be somewhat high. The ratio of three rams per 100 ewes could almost certainly be reduced if ranchers would examine the semen of rams before breeding. Actually a rough appraisal of ram semen, which is usually sufficient for practical purposes can be made with very simple and inexpensive equipment. The use of fewer rams

Table 1.
FERTILITY OF RAMS IN DIFFERENT YEARS

1st 5-year per.			2nd 5-year per.			3rd 5-year per.		
Yr.	No. of ewes	% of ewes lambg. ¹	Yr.	No. of ewes	% of ewes lambg. ¹	Yr.	No. of ewes	% of ewes lambg. ¹
1936	9	92.6	1941	86	90.2	1946	76	87.9
1937	42	91.7	1942	81	88.9	1947	81	92.7
1938	48	89.6	1943	82	90.2	1948	78	88.4
1939	85	90.1	1944	88	92.1	1949	92	90.8
1940	92	90.5	1945	61	91.7	1950	108	93.7
Total			Total			Total		
or			ave.			or		
ave.	276	90.87	ave.	398	90.62	ave.	435	90.68
Total			Total			Total		
All	1109	90.7						

¹Percentage of ewes lambing of ewes present at lambing.

Table 2.
EFFECT OF AGE AND NUMBER OF EWES BRED ON FERTILITY IN RANGE RAMS

Age	Number of ewes bred per ram			
	5-10	10-19	20-29	30-39
	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.
Lambs	2 94.0	22 92.8	85 87.5	24 90.6
1 year	14 87.3	54 94.2	262 90.6	122 90.1
2 years	2 100.0	14 88.5	97 91.1	62 92.7
3 years	1 100.0	11 88.3	52 87.4	29 90.4
4 & over	0 —	8 91.6	59 92.4	33 92.3
Average all ages	19 90.0	114 92.8	555 90.1	270 91.0

Age	Number of ewes bred per ram			
	40-49	50-59	60-65	Total
	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.	Ave. No. rams preg.
Lambs	1 98.0	1 90.0	0 —	135 89.1
1 year	48 92.9	10 89.8	2 92.5	516 90.9
2 years	21 91.2	7 89.9	1 87.0	209 91.4
3 years	22 90.4	6 93.3	4 86.0	125 89.0
4 & over	13 93.1	9 85.1	2 88.0	124 91.8
Average all ages	100 92.1	42 89.3	9 88.0	1109 90.7

would reduce the cost of breeding the ewes and could result in more intense selection for traits of economic importance, particularly if the rancher was using rams of his own breeding. This would tend to increase the rate of genetic improvement in his flock.

President Eisenhower Signs New Farm Bill

A revamped agriculture bill (HR 10875) was sent to President Eisenhower on May 24 and he signed the measure on May 28.

While a copy of the bill as it was approved by Congress is not yet at hand, it is known that it contains the two-part soil bank program: An acreage reserve and a conservation reserve program. Payments under these programs will be available this year but it is not believed that many farmers will be able or will want to take advantage of them as they have already planted their crops.

For the acreage reserve programs \$750 million is provided. The bill sets limits on the amounts that can be used for each of the six basic commodities.

Expenditures of \$450 million are authorized under the conservation reserve program.

To receive soil bank payments, producers must comply with acreage allotments. Also, anyone who knowingly or willfully grazes or harvests lands set aside under these reserve programs may be penalized by fines of 50 percent of all payments made or to be made. However, one report states that this penalty applies only to the conservation reserve program.

Leasing of Federal lands for the production of price-supported crops in surplus supply is restricted.

House proposals requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an acreage reserve program for grazing lands, and also one for "other field crops" were deleted in the conference report.

HIGH MEAT PRODUCTION

Factors involved in increased meat production in recent years, according to agricultural economists, are strong consumer demand for meat generated by high employment at high income and also intensive meat promotion and consumer education campaigns; as well as the increasing production of feeds at lower prices to the livestock grower.

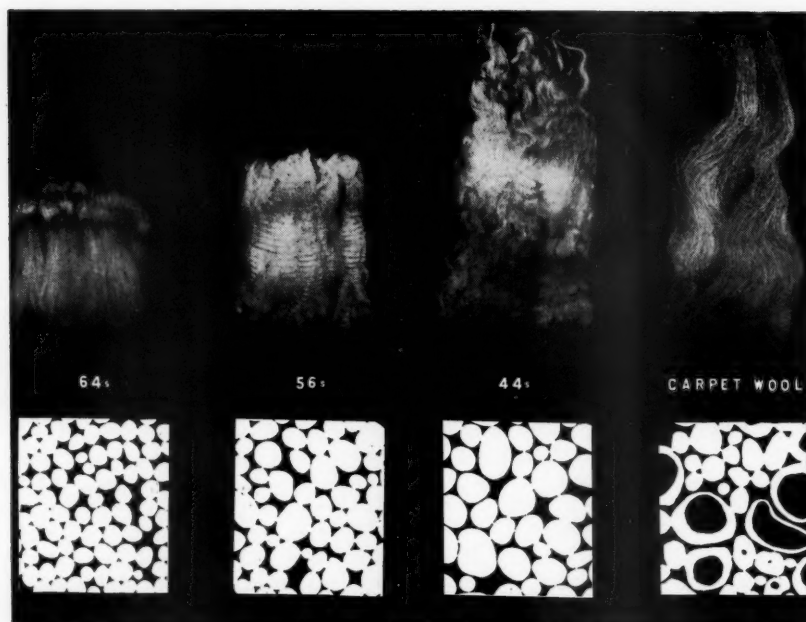


Figure 1.—Wool and photomicrographs of fibers in cross section, magnified, showing comparative fiber diameter and the distribution of diameter for different grades—the basis upon which domestic wool grades were developed. Note difference in size of fibers in grades 64's, 56's, 44's, and the fibers in carpet wool—composed of true wool fibers (solid white), medullated, and kemp fibers. Kemp are the larger medullated fibers, objectionable in apparel wools.

USDA Proposes New Wool Grades

by ELROY M. POHLE
In Charge Livestock Division Wool
Laboratory, AMS, United States De-
partment of Agriculture, Denver,
Colorado

Discussion on Proposed Wool Grades
and Standards at the National Wool
Growers' Convention, Fort Worth,
Texas, January 23-26, 1956

I have been invited to present information about the Department's new proposed wool grades and standards. As you are all aware, grades and standards are basic guides used in the preparation of most agricultural commodities for orderly marketing or trading. Wool is no exception.

We know that our different breeds of sheep produce various grades of wool, and that fleece grades vary within breeds. Therefore, it is usually necessary for someone skilled in the art of grading or classing to properly put the unopened fleeces into piles according to fineness and length for marketing.

Work on improved grades and standards has been recommended for some years by the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Wool Research and Marketing. This committee is made up of experienced and highly respected representatives of the production, marketing, manufacturing, and utilization fields of the wool industry, with whom our work has been reviewed since its beginning.

Results and consultation have directed our efforts toward a more objective

and quantitative basis of defining the major characteristic, namely, fineness and its variability, upon which grade is based. Extensive studies have been carried out during the past six years on many lots of wool which include other characteristics besides fineness.

Human Variability

Our results, as well as some others' work, have shown that the subjective or visual methods are only so good when it comes to differentiating for grade or fineness of wool. Particularly is this true when you consider that grading operations are performed by many different people, at different times, in different parts of the United States, and furthermore people's ideas of grades do vary. The same person's expertness of grading can vary from day to day. Furthermore these are not problems that are peculiar only to our own country.

As a background to the proposed standards, I should like to present a brief review. There have been U. S. Standards for 12 grades of wool since 1926, represented by physical samples. Numerical designations of these are 80s, 70s, 64s, 60s, 58s, 56s, 50s, 48s, 46s, 44s, 40s, and 36s. The basis of the grade standards was fineness or average fiber diameter, determined on a subjective basis. (See illustration of certain grades in Figure 1). Wool top grades from 80s to 50s inclusive have been defined on a micron basis since 1939 and the lower grades, 48s through 36s,

were added January 1, 1955, plus two additional grades 62s and 54s.

While the standards for grades of wool are good and have served a useful purpose, advances in wool technology have made it possible through scientific testing to define the grades more precisely, objectively, and quantitatively.

The new proposals would not appreciably change the general appearance of the physical grades as they are now and have been used, but they do provide a quantitative definition for each count designation. The standards would be valuable to the trade in settlement of possible disputes regarding deliveries where questions arise as to the material meeting specifications. They would provide definite quantitative figures for marketing, for animal breeders and scientific workers as compared to subjective appraisals.

Proposed Standard's Basis

The already accepted micron requirements for the official 14 grades of wool top standards and results of studies carried out through cooperation of different segments of the industry on grease wools manufactured into top, have formulated the basis of the proposed new wool standards. These proposals were published in the March 29, 1955 issue of the Federal Register for comment.

Certain segments of the wool trade have questioned the application of the standards, particularly for certain

types of wool. Some seemed to feel the proposals would do away with visual classifying of wool. Nothing could have been farther from our minds because as long as wool fleeces vary in grade and must be handled by human beings it will probably always be necessary to work them by hand and eye.

The standards were developed for apparel wools; therefore the specifications do not apply to carpet wool types. They were also developed, using principally worsted processing in order to determine what dimensional changes take place from raw wool to top. Results show that in order for a lot of raw wool to make the same grade of top, the raw wool must be from one half to one micron finer in average diameter. This is due primarily to the removal of noils.

Another question—how will this affect the grade on woolen-type wools? It appears there will need to be a common understanding and general agreement among everyone concerned to accept or use one set of grade requirements, and make adjustments for price if necessary because one does not necessarily know if a lot of wool is going to be sold or used on the woolen or worsted system when it is prepared for market.

Usually the strictly woolen type wools are thought of as being shorter and may be more variable for grade than those used in worsted processing, but this is not always the case.

Physical Characteristics

There are certain important physical characteristics, however, that can be determined; they are the tested fineness and distribution in microns, the length and its variability, the number of crimp per inch, the yield in percentage, and perhaps results for other characteris-

tics as time progresses, which give the producer, seller, and also the buyer and/or manufacturer quite firm quantitative information about the wool.

Another point—what effect will the fleece skirts have on the determination of grade and uniformity? Much depends upon the end use of the wool and quality of product desired. Work to date on this shows but little effect as judged by the grade and quality of top produced. However, work is under way now bearing on this point, so it may be presumed more definite information will be available.

This does mean, we believe, that to maintain a uniform interpretation of grades more objective, quantitative, and consistent methods of determining fineness or grade, variability, length, crimp, color, yield, and any other characteristics and properties will need to be used. Some of the equipment, sampling and testing methods used in industry, for fiber fineness and distribution testing are briefly described in Figures 2 to 7. There are varying interpretations of grades and there may always be, as long as subjective or visual methods are used.

Grade Variations

Just in passing, how many of you have examined grading reports on your clip and have found variations in grade tonnage from year to year? This has perhaps happened even though you run the same sheep, have not changed the breeding practices, use the same range and have had similar growing conditions from year to year.

It is well recognized that there are physical characteristics and properties of wool other than fineness which are important and affect its commercial value. Therefore, basically, when wool

is graded for fineness it is also classed for length, perhaps yield, condition, color, etc.

It is generally believed that when the term "grade" is used in this country, it refers to the quality of wool from the standpoint of fineness or fiber diameter and that other terms are used to express the various physical properties which contribute to its value. Keeping this definition in mind, it is proposed that the official 1926 series of wool standards now in effect be amended as follows: (a) That the grades for apparel wool be defined on a quantitative micron (a micron is 1/25,400 of an inch) basis for each of the 12 grades from 80s to 36s, using fineness and distribution of fiber. See table 1.

(b) That the interpretation of the test results for grade placement provide a split grade classification, using first the average diameter of a lot to indicate the predominance of a grade and the fineness distribution figures to denote secondary portions. The second count number is the finest grade to which the observed fiber distribution conforms. (As an example—60/62s or 62/64s) Split grade classifications are commonly used to describe grade in the market from day to day.

(c) That two new grades be added, a 62s and 54s. The 62s would be the finer side of a half-blood wool and the 54s the finer side of a quarter-blood.

(d) That physical samples be made available depicting fineness characteristics for each of the 14 spinning counts. These samples could be used by the inspection method for determining conformity to grade.

(e) That the spinning count be substituted for the blood grade system as has been recommended for describing grades of wool. This seems appropri-



Figure 2.—Equipment used in subsampling and testing composite scoured wool cores for fineness and distribution. Scoured wool is compressed into a cylinder 3 inches in diameter. Pressure coring tube with 3/8-inch cutting tip is pushed into the compressed wool with a quick thrusting motion.



Figure 3.—Extruding cores. A rod is inserted into tube through cutting tip and the wool extruded from tube.

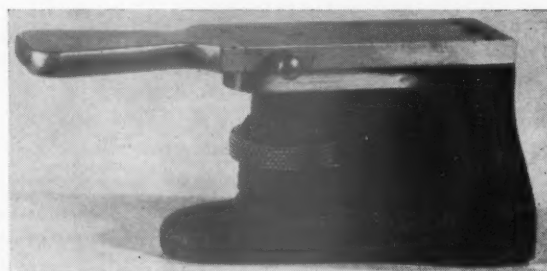


Figure 4.—Large cross section device for use in preparation of short sections of fibers. Many fibers obtained from operation in Figure 3 are packed into the slot of the device, fibers are extruded and cut off, mounted on a slide and used for measurement under a projection microscope at 500X.

ate because there has been a gradual change in the trade from the "blood" to the "count" system, even though many times they are used synonymously. It is more of an international terminology used throughout the world with not quite the same interpretation throughout, however; and the count system can give a more precise representation of the wool, if such is warranted.

Results of Studies

As support to the proposed grades and standards allow me to briefly present some of the results from studies carried on. From a large cooperative undertaking in 1954 involving 46 lots of graded domestic grease wool which had been visually classified in 1952 and 1953 for price support purposes, and combed into top, 48 percent of the lots produced a comparable grade of top; 46 percent of the total lots produced a top which was coarser in grade than the original CCC appraisal, and 6 percent of the lots produced top which was finer than the classification placed thereon for price support purposes.

An industry committee was established to subjectively evaluate the grade for these same wools according to the usual commercial practices. Of 279 individual appraisals made for grade by the industry committee, 45 percent of the appraisals compared favorably with the grade of top produced. Fifty-one percent estimated the grease wool grade finer than the top produced, and 4 percent estimated the lots coarser than the grade of top produced.

To demonstrate the application of testing raw wool for grade on the same 46 lots just mentioned, by using wool from core remainders (See Figures 2 and 3) and applying the "proposed standards and specifications for grades of wool" as compared to the grade of top produced (using the official wool top specifications), they would have been placed 91 percent correct on the 46 lots. This shows a considerable difference between grade placement of 91 percent using objective means and 48 percent by subjective or visual means.

Discrepancies Arise

The objective determination of grade is not always 100 percent correct and we would like to point out that even through testing there are certain discrepancies which sometimes arise, but nevertheless, it is more consistently correct than are subjective or visual means of determining fineness. Discrepancies in grade of wool can and do affect the monetary value of the commodity.

A report was given at the recent International Wool Textile Research Conference in Australia by S. S. Y. Young and A. A. Dunlop of the CSIRO, Sheep Biology Laboratory at Prospect, N. S. W., Australia, concerning "The Relationship of Some Characteristics of Merino Wools to Price Paid at Australian Sales" stating:

"The wools were grown by the fine, medium, and strong woolled strains of the Australian Merino and Australia-wide mean prices were used for the Australian Wool Realisation Commission types into which the fleeces had been classified. Eight fleece traits or characteristics were analyzed by correlation studies, which included diameter, crimps per inch, staple length, commercial count, and gradings of character, color, soundness and handle. The findings were summarized as follows: of the factors, character grading was never important in control of price, while soundness and handle were usually unimportant. Length and color had consistent effects on price, but these were small compared with the determination by count which was of overwhelming importance and alone controlled nearly 80 percent of the variance in price. Diameter and crimps per inch had real influence on price, but, as these were both highly correlated with count, it was possible to delete these variables from the analysis with little loss of control of price."



Figure 5.—Longitudinal fiber images showing fiber dispersion on slide after being magnified.

A significant point which was raised at this same conference was that one of the greatest needs of the entire wool industry is the development of ways and means of measuring and describing the specific characteristics and properties of wool in quantitative form. Also it would be of considerable value if this information were passed along to the manufacturer so he might benefit by knowing how certain important and measurable characteristics correlate with his particular mill production problems.

Core Testing Valid

The core testing for yield after many years has become the basis for consummating many sales between buyer and seller. We believe that test results for grade as determined by measuring the fineness and distribution of the remaining wool from cores (See Figures 2 and 3) which are drawn for yield determination are quite satisfactory when compared with card sliver results used as a check of the lot. A publication was issued in 1954 on this subject.

Staple length of grease wool can be determined by drawing and measuring the staples from the bags or bales and a very close estimate derived as to the length of top it will produce. The number of crimp per inch and crimp type may be determined from the staples drawn for length, which may prove to be of importance in assessing utility of the wool and may eventually be reflected in its value.

It is true, it would cost something to get this type of service and information, but it would be equally advantageous to the entire wool industry all the way from the sheep breeder and wool grower to the dealer or handler and manufacturer. It could be a package testing service agreed upon at time of coring. Better descriptions of wool on a quantitative basis would serve to further meet the competition of man-made fibers because manufacturers of these fibers are able to give quantitative and even processing performance information to the buyer.

Descriptive Estimates

It is believed that suitable sampling

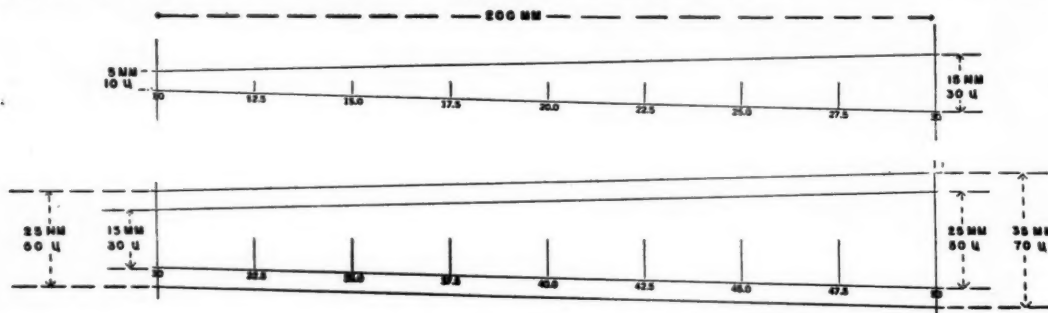


Figure 6.—Wedge scale, used in measuring, recording, and calculating average diameter and distribution of fiber diameters. The point to mark the scale is where the wedge and fiber image correspond as illustrated in Figure 7.

and testing methods and techniques have been developed and when properly carried out result in very good objective, descriptive estimates for a lot of graded or classed wool for the following principal characteristics upon which value and utility are based:

- Grade or fineness and distribution
- Number of crimp per inch
- Staple length and its variability
- Clean fiber present (yield)

In our standardization program on improved grades and standards and development of sampling tools and techniques we are doing our utmost to seek the truth and working in the interest of the entire wool industry. It is recommended that you try the newly proposed wool standards since they are somewhat new in application to raw wool. See how they work and we believe you will find their application quite realistic, more consistent from year to year, and a step forward in the marketing of wool.



OLYMPIC ATHLETES IN ALL-WOOL

Wool Bureau Photo

Official uniforms from the all-wool wardrobe for U. S. Olympic athletes going to Australia are shown for the first time by John B. Kelly Jr. (left) of Philadelphia, U. S., Canadian and Pan American Single Sculls Champion; and Thomas W. Courtney of Livingston, New Jersey, American 800-meter record holder. Kelly wears the parade uniform which has a blazer-cut jacket in eggshell all-wool tropical worsted and navy blue tropical worsted slacks. The travel uniform worn by Courtney consists of a navy blue gabardine "Ike" style jacket and lightweight gray wool flannel slacks. Uniforms include matching caps and shoes, socks, shirts and ties. Jackets and hats bear the red, white, blue and gold U. S. Olympic emblem. Mr. Kelly is the brother of Movie Actress Grace Kelly.

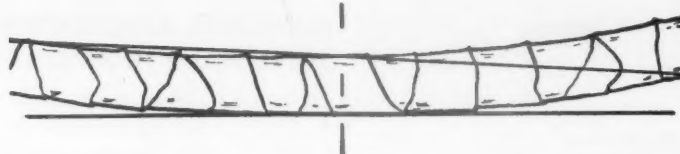


Figure 7.—Illustrates point to mark on the scale where wedge and fiber image correspond. From 400 to 1600 fiber measurements are recommended for each lot, depending upon the grade of wool tested. From the calculated results, grade classification may be interpreted by referring to Table 1, "Proposed Standards for Grades of Raw Wool."

Table 1.—Proposed Standards for Grades of Raw Wool

Grades		80's	70's	64's	62's	60's	58's	56's	54's	50's	48's	46's	44's	40's	36's
Average	Min.	17.7	19.2	20.6	22.1	23.5	25.0	26.5	27.9	29.4	31.0	32.7	34.4	36.2	38.1
Diameter (in microns)	Max.	19.1	20.5	22.0	23.4	24.9	26.4	27.8	29.3	30.9	32.6	34.3	36.1	38.0	40.2
Fiber Distribution, percent:															
*10.0-25	Min. %	92	85												
*10.0-30	Min. %			93	89	81	74	66	58	49					
*10.0-40	Min. %										81	74	66	58	48
*25.1 and over	Max. %	8	15												
*30.1 and over	Max. %	1	3	7	11	19	26	34	42	51					
*40.1 and over	Max. %			1	1	2					19	26	34	42	52
*50.1 and over	Max. %						1	1	2	2					
*60.1 and over	Max. %										1	1	2	3	4
*In Microns															

Note: The minor percentage group is a part of, and not in addition to, the first maximum group. The combined groups should not exceed 100 percent.

Women's Favorite Fabric is Wool

DESPITE the competition of synthetics, wool is the leading fiber in American women's suit, skirt, and sweater wardrobes, according to a sample survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

Personal interviews were held with a national cross section of women to find out about their ownership and recent purchases of sweaters and of fall, winter, and spring suits and skirts, and about their attitudes toward the fibers used in these items of clothing.

The survey showed that more women had suits, skirts, or sweaters of wool than of any other fiber. Wool led among the cool-weather suits and skirts bought last year, too, but more women had bought sweaters of orlon than of other fibers.

Asked which fiber they considered best for each of the three items, more women named wool than named other fibers. Wool was particularly preferred for suits and skirts.

In telling Department researchers what they liked about wool, many women commented that it wears well, holds its shape, doesn't wrinkle easily, is warm, looks well, is easy to care for, and has nice texture.

A full analysis of the survey is being prepared. The preliminary summary has been published (AMS-115) and copies are available from the Market-

ing Information Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

—USDA Release

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WOOL INDUSTRY MUST MEET SYNTHETICS CHALLENGE

IN reading last week's **BUSINESS WEEK** I came across the following article which, if we in the wool business do not take up the challenge of the synthetic fibers, will apply to us in the not-too-distant future.

"Last week President Eisenhower made synthetic rubber's (fiber's) success story official. He told Congress that the country need never again fear a shortage of rubber (wool), that expansions planned or in progress by private producers will bring synthetic capacity to a high enough point to meet forecasted needs for all new rubber (wool fiber) as far ahead as 1960. (1965)

"The announcement—though no great surprise—was one more happy note to the rubber users (textile mills). It meant that the days of their dependence on natural rubber (wool) were numbered; that increasingly, if need be, they could turn to synthetic, with its much more stable prices and more certain supplies.

"But, while users cheer, producers of natural rubber (wool) are staring at the other side of the coin. The President's announcement was just one more reminder that their market has changed, and for good. For generations they had a monopoly; theirs was the only product that could do the job. Now they face a wide open market—one in which they'll have to push for business as never before just to hold their own."

As you can see, by just inserting the word "wool" for "rubber," this article could be prophetic. If we wool growers are to prevent the synthetic fibers from usurping our markets any further, the time for great and concentrated action is now, and not, as this article shows, after it is too late.

—George K. Hislop

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE HARMONY

IT is to be expected that all actions taken by our State and National Wool Growers Associations will not be favored by every grower member. However it is surely the aim of all wool growers to maintain a healthy and thriving sheep industry in this country. Although there will be many differences of opinion on how to reach this goal, we must have harmony in our National Association and other organizations of which we are a part and financially interested.

At the National Convention in Fort Worth in January of this year it was determined on the floor of the convention by a vote of 331 to 279 that it would be to the best interests of the sheep raising industry to replace the Manager of the American Sheep Producers Council. Although the National Wool Growers Association is organized on democratic principles, much dissension has arisen over this majority action. With the degree of disunity that exists at this time over this matter, we cannot hope to get the best advertising and promotion possible.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Midsummer meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Wool Growers Association and of the Council of Directors of the American Wool Council, Inc., will be held this year at Helena, Montana, July 17 and 18.

Reservations are being handled by Secretary Everett E. Shuey of the Montana Wool Growers Association, Livestock Building, Helena, Montana.

Every wool grower has an interest in the advertising and promotion program being carried on by the American Sheep Producers Council, as his money is paying the bill and the benefits from the program will be his. Consequently, it will be to all of our interests to overcome this particular disunity in our National Wool Growers Association and in the American Sheep Producers Council.

—Andrew D. Little



Wool Bureau Directors Elected

NEWLY-ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS of The Wool Bureau, New York, headed by T. G. Carter, Chairman of the Australian Wool Bureau, is seen with the Bureau's President at the conclusion of the organization's annual meeting (May 3) in New York. Left to right are: Jan H. Moolman, Chairman of the International Wool Publicity and Research Fund and the South African Wool Board; Walter Horrobin, Chairman of the New Zealand Wool Board; Edwin S. Mayer of Sonora, Texas; Mr. Carter; John H. Breckenridge, President of the National Wool Growers Association; W. H. Steiwer, President of the American Wool Council; R. G. Lund, New Zealand Member, International Wool Secretariat; Max F. Schmitt, Bureau President, and L. Francis Hartley, Chairman and South African Member of the International Wool Secretariat.

36TH ANNUAL RAM SALE

Averages Drop Sharply In California Selling

WHILE slaughter lambs were bringing the strongest prices in two years, ram offerings at the 36th annual California Ram Sale took a sharp drop of \$40 a head in April 30-May 1 selling at Sacramento.

California Wool Growers Association officials, managers of the sale, attributed the lower prices to a lingering uncertainty hovering over both the lamb and wool markets.

The 1956 sale average was \$84.49 for 1,829 head of mostly rams and some ewes. This compares with the 1955 average of \$125.70 on 1,940 head and the 1954 average of \$149.83.

Though Hampshire rams brought the highest over-all average, a Suffolk stud ram consigned by Broadmead Farms, Amity, Oregon, topped the sale. The purchase of this ram was made at \$750 by L. L. Madsen, Livermore, California.

Top-seller in the Hampshire division brought \$665 to owner Melvin Peterson, LeGrand, California, from the Olsen Brothers of Spanish Fork, Utah.

Sharpest drop in the sale average came in blackfaced selling, while white-faced rams and ewes showed a lesser price decline from 1955. Despite the sharp drop, blackfaced still managed to record the highest breed averages with

941 Hampshires bringing a \$93 average and 616 Suffolks bringing \$82.

Second high-seller in the Suffolk division was a stud ram consigned by Fred and Marian Coble, Green Valley Ranch, Winters, California. The ram was bought by M. P. Botkin for the University of Wyoming at \$500.

The University of California, Davis, sold the second Hampshire top-seller at \$400 to Mabel Liskey Henzel, Lost River Ranch, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

In Southdown selling two Eldon Riddell rams, Independence, Oregon, tied for top money of \$150. First ram in the ring went to L. Holdenreid, Kelseyville, California 4-H Clubber. John Massera, Salinas, California bought the other Riddell ram.

A Rambouillet consigned by Nielsen Sheep Company, Ephraim, Utah, brought \$135 to top that division. Buyers were Ospital Brothers, Linden, California.

Top Corriedale stud ram was bought by Art King, Cheyenne, Wyoming at \$250. Leslie and Lee Crane, Santa Rosa, California were consignors.

In the sale of Columbias, E. J. Handley, McMinnville, Oregon walked off with high honors. Two of Handley's stud rams sold at \$175 each. Both of

them were bought by Mrs. A. E. Lyons, Orick, California.

Sale averages by breeds are shown in the accompanying table.

TEXAS RAMBOUILLET FLEECE WINS CALIFORNIA WOOL SHOW

Rambouillet fleece entered by 4-H Club member Connie Locklin, Sonora, Texas, won the grand championship at the 24th annual California Wool Show.

The 4-H Club boy, son of Dave Locklin, also took home the trophy for the best ewe fleece from flock of less than 350 ewes. The Sheraton-Palace Hotel solid silver trophy is the award for the grand championship.

"KING" AGAIN WINS FAR WESTERN SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Scoring 41 points out of a possible 50, Charles Null's dog "King" won the 18th annual Far Western International Sheep Dog Trials. The trials were held in conjunction with the California Ram Sale in Sacramento.

The victory makes "King" a three-time winner of the Premier Perpetual Trophy awarded by California Wool Growers Association. The handsome border collie won the trials in 1954 and 1955. "King" took the \$150 top money for his Dixon, California master.

WESTBOUND MEAT RATES

Western railroads are again asking for a reduction in carload rates on fresh meats westbound. Their proposal is similar to the one made last year which produced such opposition that the railroads withdrew their application before scheduled hearings could be held in Salt Lake City in January.

We have been informed that the proposed rail rates are generally 30 cents per hundredweight under the present common carrier truck rates.

The position of the National Wool Growers Association, based on convention action, is that the railroads should be asked to make similar concurrent reductions in westbound rates on livestock.

Chas. E. Blaine and Son, as traffic managers, have filed a letter with the western railroads setting forth the position as that of the National Wool Growers Association and the American National Cattlemen's Association. More specifically, this position is stated by Mr. Chas. E. Blaine as follows:

"If reduction of 26.73 percent is made in the rate on fresh meat from Denver to San Francisco, then the rate on livestock from Denver to San Francisco should likewise be reduced 26.73 percent."

CALIFORNIA SALE AVERAGES 1955-1956

	1956		1955	
	Number	Ave. Price	Number	Ave. Price
HAMPSHIRE:				
Rams	828	\$98.86	859	\$144
Ewes	113	53.34	270	55
SUFFOLKS:				
Rams	530	86.81	537	143
Ewes	86	50.92	102	55
SUFFOLK-HAMPSHIRE				
CROSSBREDS:				
Rams	90	64.11	63	187
SOUTHDOWNS:				
Rams	20	96.25	13	125
Ewes	28	66.43	12	84
RAMBOUILLETS:				
Rams	28	72.50	41	84
Ewes	—	—	1	40
COLUMBIAS:				
Rams	48	74.90	47	96
Ewes	10	47.00	23	56
CORRIEDALES:				
Rams	25	67.20	67	69
Ewes	6	50.00	18	47
ROMELDALES:				
Rams	12	45.00	38	70
Ewes	5	25.00	5	35

Survey Conducted in Cleveland

DESPITE a low level of lamb consumption in the Midwest, almost half of the homemakers in Cleveland (Ohio) used lamb at some time during the 12 months preceding mid-1955, according to results of a sample survey conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The survey was conducted as one part of a market research program designed to assist producers of lamb and wool in increasing the use of their products through improved merchandising and promotion. Some of the major points covered in the survey were consumers' preferences and attitudes toward fresh lamb.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Users and nonusers of lamb.—Almost 5 in 10 homemakers in the Cleveland area used lamb in the preceding year, according to results of a sample survey conducted in mid 1955. Approximately 1 in 6 bought lamb during the week preceding the interview. Among the nonusers, about half had used it at some time in the past.

Characteristics of users.—Homemakers in the upper income groups, the better educated group, and in the group over 45 years of age are more likely to use lamb than those from lower income, education, or age groups. Those whose parents were born in the Northeastern or North Central States were also more likely to be lamb users than were respondents whose parents come from other parts of the country.

Frequency of serving.—Out of every 10 homemakers who used lamb in the last year, 3 served it 3 or more times a month; nearly 4 served it at least once a month, and another served it less than once a month. These groups are referred to in this report as "frequent," "moderate," and "infrequent" users.

What users like about lamb.—The more important reasons given by respondents for liking lamb are its distinctive flavor, its nutritive qualities, its lean tender texture, the ease of preparation, and the variety it adds to meals.

What users dislike about lamb.—The chief reasons given for not liking lamb were its cost, the tough, greasy texture of the meat, its strong flavor, and an odor which is considered particularly disagreeable during cooking.

Why nonusers don't use lamb.—The most frequently mentioned reasons for not using lamb were a dislike of the flavor, and eating habits developed in

childhood. Less frequently mentioned reasons were a dislike by some member of the family, an offensive odor, and an unpleasant past experience.

Preferred cuts.—Chops and leg of lamb are the favorite cuts of an overwhelming majority of lamb users; 5 in 10 chose chops and 4 in 10 selected leg of lamb. Other cuts were mentioned by so few of the homemakers as to be of negligible importance.

Why users don't serve lamb as often as they would like to.—Almost half of the homemakers who used lamb said they would like to use it more often. The main reason they don't is the cost;

Most Food Chains Use USDA Grading

A majority of food chain companies prefer to buy and sell fresh beef and lamb on the basis of USDA grades for best quality control.

The National Association of Food Chains, as an association, has no policy concerning the preference for federal grades or packer grades in the buying of fresh meat. Member companies differ in their opinions of the usefulness and value of these two systems.

Although a majority of the companies buy and sell fresh beef and lamb on the basis of USDA grades, several use packer grades for buying and several use their own private labels for selling.

The percentage of the companies using each system is shown below:

(Note: Totals add to more than 100 percent because some companies reported using more than one system.)

Buying Lamb:	
System Used	Percent
Government Grades	71
Packer Grades	40
Selling Lamb:	
System Used	Percent
Government Grades	62
Packer Grades	24
Private Label	19

When asked to indicate a choice of a grading system for buying and selling lamb, 58 companies reported as follows:

Buying Lamb:	
System Preferred	Percent
Government Grades	67
Packer Grades	14
Government and Packer	16
None of these systems	2
Selling Lamb:	
System Preferred	Percent
Government Grades	57
Packer Grades	14
Private Label	24
Combination of Government & Private Label	9
Other Combinations	14

—National Association of Food Chains

a less important reason is the fact that some member of the household doesn't like it.

Relative food value of lamb.—The majority of lamb users believed the food value of lamb was equal to or greater than the food value of beef, veal, or pork. As few as 1 in 10 felt that it was less nutritious than the other meats. The majority of nonusers, on the other hand, felt unable to make a comparison.

Availability.—As many as 8 users in 10 said that lamb was available the year round in the stores where they shop; only 1 in 10 had been unable to buy lamb more than 3 times during the year.

Seasonal use of lamb.—About 3 lamb users in 10 report they use lamb more in the winter and spring than at other seasons of the year. For the most part, the reasons they gave for this seasonal use dealt with the superior quality of lamb during this season, its more general availability, and the inconvenience or discomfort of cooking during hot weather.

Use of lamb for special occasions.—Only 1 lamb user in 10 made a point of serving lamb on special occasions such as Easter, New Year's, or Sunday. However, 4 in 10 served it to guests during the year. Thus, lamb seems to be regarded not only as an everyday food, but a food also appropriate for a company dish.

Influence of various promotional methods.—The majority of housewives report they decide what meats they are going to buy before they go out to shop. Nevertheless, lamb displays in stores still appeared to be an important factor in the homemaker's decision to buy lamb. About half of the lamb users said they sometimes decide to buy lamb because of the displays.

The Sample

The results presented in this report are based on a sample survey of households in Cleveland, Ohio. A total of 786 homemakers were interviewed, of whom 487 were users of lamb and 299 were nonusers. Because a disproportionate number of lamb users were interviewed, the results were adjusted in those instances where comparisons were made between users and nonusers.

Detailed results of the survey have been published as Marketing Research Report No. 113, "Homemakers' Preferences for Selected Cuts of Lamb in Cleveland, Ohio." Single copies may be obtained free from the Marketing Information Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

—USDA Release

Do You Have a Sheep Management Problem? Your Answer May Be Here

Summaries of reports on lamb feeding and sheep management research conducted in 1955-56 and compiled and presented at Kansas State College's Livestock Feeders' Day, May 5, 1956.

1. A comparison of roughages for fattening lambs.

Lambs receiving either beet top silage or sorghum silage as a part of their roughage ration gained faster than lambs receiving only sorghum stover or sorghum stover and alfalfa hay as the roughage part of their rations. Gains were more expensive on beet top silage, however, than on other roughage rations at prices charged for feeds used.

Gains made on standard ration of ground sorghum stover, milo grain, cottonseed meal, limestone and salt were lower than usual. The inclusion of about 0.8 pound of alfalfa hay as a part of the roughage ration failed to increase the rate of gain, but at the prices charged, did cheapen the gains slightly.

2. Wheat pasture studies with fattening lambs.

Both irrigated drilled wheat pasture and irrigated volunteer wheat pasture produced average daily gains of approximately 0.4 pound during a 95-day period during the fall and early winter. The lambs were marketed directly from the pastures and produced carcasses averaging "high good."

3. Sorghum stubble pasture studies with fattening lambs.

Gains on sorghum stubble supplemented with alfalfa hay and some grain toward the end of the grazing period were lower than those obtained in previous years. Dryland stubble was eaten more readily than irrigated stubble, and lambs gained slightly more on dryland stubble.

Lambs from the dryland stubble were finished in drylot on a ration of alfalfa hay, sorghum silage, and milo grain. They made a very satisfactory gain of 0.36 pound per day during this 42-day feeding period.

Lambs from the irrigated milo were on wheat pasture for 16 days and 26 days in the drylot where they were fed alfalfa hay, sorghum stover and milo grain. Their gains were very disappointing (0.08 pound per head daily) during this 42-day period and the lambs lacked the finish of lambs in the other lots.

4. Hormones for feeder lambs.

Lambs given hormones, either as implants at the beginning of the test or provided daily in the feed, have gained more rapidly than lambs fed a similar ration but given no hormones. This was

the first year that the 6 mg. stilbestrol implants were given to some of the lambs on wheat pasture; average daily gains were increased by about one-third.

As in past years, hormone lambs have shrunk more going to market; have yielded less when slaughtered; and have produced lower grading carcasses. The differences this year, however, were quite small between controls and those lambs receiving the 6 mg. implants.

(The first three reported studies were made by T. Donald Bell and A. B. Erhart at the Garden City Branch Experiment Station. Walter H. Smith joined these men for the fourth reported study.)

5. The ratios of roughages to concentrates in lamb fattening rations. (T. Donald Bell, D. Richardson, R. F. Cox, and J. W. Needham.)

When ground grain and chopped alfalfa have been fed to fattening lambs, a ratio of 55 percent roughage and 45 percent concentrates has consistently given better results than when rations with a higher or lower proportion of concentrates have been fed. When the alfalfa hay and corn are fed combined in pellet form, a ratio of 65 percent roughage and 35 percent concentrates has given better results than the more concentrated ration.

6. A comparison of three different types of ewes for commercial sheep production. (T. Donald Bell, L. A. Holland and Edward A. Nelson.)

Texas fine-wool ewes have consistently bred and lambed earlier than northwestern blackface ewes or northwestern whiteface ewes in the four years the tests have been conducted at Kansas State College. Because of the earlier lambing dates lambs from Texas ewes reach market weights earlier than lambs from the other two types of ewes. Lambs from the other groups of ewes, however, gain faster than fine-wool lambs and are heavier at 100 days of age. Northwestern whiteface ewes have generally shown the heaviest fleeces followed by Texas ewes.

7. A comparison of four different breeds of rams for commercial lamb production. (T. Donald Bell, L. A. Holland and A. W. Gardner.)

Lambing and weaning data for the lambs sired by Hampshire, Suffolk, Southdown, and Shropshire rams have

not been consistent and additional information is needed before any conclusions can be drawn.

The limited information indicates that the Hampshire and Suffolk sired lambs usually gain faster than the Southdown or Shropshire sired lambs. In two years of the tests, the Shropshire sired lambs put on their gains with less feed than the other sired groups; the advantage was not maintained in the 1955-56 tests however.

8. Breeding studies with ewes and rams. (T. Donald Bell, Walter H. Smith, Wendel Gardner, and V. E. McAdams.)

Tests during the past two summers have shown that the semen quality of rams is lower and the rams may become sterile during hot summer months. Ewes are less affected by higher temperatures and usually continue to show estrual periods. Tests indicate that ram fertility may be a large factor influencing time and regularity of lambing.

Columbia Breeders Re-elect Vetter

THE Columbia Sheep Breeders Association of America concluded its two-day (May 18-19) annual meeting at Dubois, Idaho, by re-electing Marcus Vetter, Monitor, Oregon, president and electing Otho Whitefield, Friona, Texas, vice president.

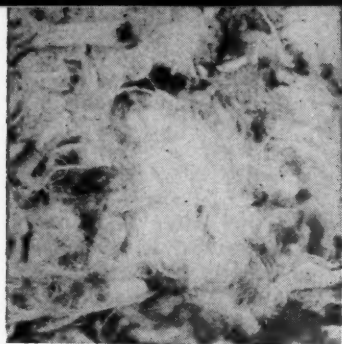
Mark Bradford, Spanish Fork, Utah; Don Marquiss, Gillette, Wyoming; and Harold Tangeman, New Bremen, Ohio, were re-elected directors and H. B. Seely, Algona, Iowa, was elected a director.

Director J. E. Nordby of the U. S. Experiment Station and his staff conducted a very successful field day program, May 18. A demonstration of inspection of Columbia sheep for registration was led by W. A. Denecke of Bozeman, Montana and Mark Bradford of Spanish Fork, Utah. Shearing and wool grading demonstrations were conducted by Art Suitter of Idaho Falls, Idaho and Dr. Lowell O. Wilson of the Station.

A tour of the range land and observation of Columbia ewes and lambs occupied a part of the first day's program. The tour was led by John A. Stoehr and Jack A. Schmautz of the Station.

A panel on sheep problems was led by Dr. Young of the Montana Experiment Station, and included Dr. Wendell H. Kyle, geneticist at the Station, Dr. Byron T. Keith, head of the University of Idaho Animal Husbandry Department.

—Alma Esplin, Secretary
Columbia Sheep Breeders Assn. of America



REPORT: May Wool Market

Better Tone Present On Domestic Market

May 25, 1956

SINCE we referred to the foggy situation in the wool market last month, it may be appropriate to proclaim the better tone in the market this month by saying that the fog is lifting and at long last the sun is shining through.

Recent conversations with a local woolman show for the first time in many months a definite optimism.

To back up the above statements, we quote from the DAILY NEWS RECORD of May 21: "The domestic wool price tone is very firm with the better type wools actually edging higher. Two of the largest topmakers today admitted this fact and when a topmaker will say wool prices are strong, it must be true. One, however, tempered his reply by saying he didn't think business warranted the prices now being asked by dealers."

Clips, particularly the better ones are being purchased about as fast as they are shorn. In most instances they are purchased with definite customers in mind; that is, little wool is being bought on speculation. This means that inventories are not being built up by dealers.

The same condition exists in the top market according to reports. Business there is said to be moderately active at firm prices with shipments moving out faster than new orders are coming in. This precludes the build-up of inventories.

While we haven't seen any listing of the major factors behind this resurgence, we are sure that some of the following enter into the picture:

FIRST, THE WOOL MANUFACTURING BUSINESS is greatly improved. As we have said in previous wool market reports, the drastic readjustment in the manufacturing end that always follows a war has tapered off. Textile manufacturers generally had a very much better year in 1955 than in 1954, according to a recent report by the Federal Trade Commission.

Second—probably this should come first—the popularity of wool seems to be on the rise again.

"Clothing sales are accelerating and marked by a strong return to natural fibers and their blends," Miss Ruth

Jackendoff, director of The Wool Bureau's Department of Economics and Statistics, stated in an April review of the United States' wool situation. "Wool and wool blends are participating in this trend because many consumers are displaying a revulsion toward uncertain performance of many new fiber fabrics and because prices are competitive. Whether higher prices of wool outerwear later in the year (reflecting increased mill and clothing labor costs) will meet consumer resistance is a moot question, depending to a large extent on the general economic climate."

The increases in prices for fall lines, referred to in the above statement, have been made by quite a few manufacturers. J. P. Stevens and Company increased the yardage price on all fancy worsted 10 cents a yard on May 14. Price increases on women's wear fabrics announced by the Forstmann Woolen Company range from 12½ to 27½ cents a yard.

While the slowing down of sales at the retail level during April and early May put a damper on fall orders on wools and worsteds, not too much significance is attached to this as it is considered a reflection of the "buying-only-against-order" attitude of all segments of the manufacturing and retail end of the business, and better retail business late in the month was expected to show up in fabric orders.

ANOTHER MAJOR FACTOR IS THE SHORT SUPPLY. According to the Exchange Service Bureau, stocks of apparel wool in the United States on May 1 were estimated at 160 million clean pounds. On May 1, 1955 the apparel wool supply estimate was 174 million clean pounds. These figures do not include wools held in bond. However, these in-bond wools at present are believed to be no higher and probably lower than a year ago.

Under the present rate of consumption (about 26 million pounds a month), this would be sufficient only for about half the year.

Prices at most foreign auctions, particularly Australian, are declared prohibitive to U. S. purchases. These markets are very firm. Added to the price factor is a shearing strike that has been in effect in Australia for more than four months. This may throw a

monkey wrench into future deliveries, although shearing is being done in spots in that country. Currently the strike is delaying shipments because some dock workers have struck in sympathy with shearers, it is reported. All of this clouds the picture on arrivals of Australian wool purchases in this country.

THE FOREIGN AUCTION SEASON CLOSES at the end of June. From all indications, pricewise, sales are expected to continue on a very strong basis. Japan has dominated competition at Australian points recently and caused a 2 to 5 percent price rise the early part of the month. While it is questioned how long that country will continue to be a heavy purchaser, an increased interest by Communist countries may take up any slack should Japan's purchases lessen. Poland and Czechoslovakia have recently re-entered the auctions and rumors are current that the Soviet Union may become an active purchaser again.

In any event, some market observers believe a very tight situation on apparel wool may develop in this country during the coming months.

A CALL FOR BIDS ON 714,000 YARDS OF WOOL SERGE the middle of May by the Philadelphia Quartermasters Depot also injected further optimism in the market. Some commentators say the topmakers may have sufficient supplies to cover these bids; if that is so, it is reasonable to suppose that such inventories would have to be replaced.

The accelerated movement of stockpile wools held by the Commodity Credit Corporation during May, plus the fact that many lots in that accumulation are now closed out, adds another encouraging note.

We hope that all these factors may bear fruit in a real upward swing in prices at producing points.

SALES IN PRODUCING AREAS CALIFORNIA:

Late in April or early in May San Joaquin Valley ewe and yearling wool sold at 32 to 46¾ cents, largely at 39 to 44 cents. At that time, also, Sacramento Valley wools were reported as selling at 44 to 57½ cents, the bulk at 45 to 52 cents. Some 1048 fleeces were sold at Esparto at 55 cents.

In the forefront of May several thousand pounds of 12-months' wool from Calaveras County brought 45¾ cents and lamb's wool 35 cents. Some two-year-old ewe wool sold in Yolo County at 55½ cents and Colusa County wool sold at 50 cents. A sale of 26 bags of mostly Corriedale wool was made in Monterey County at 42 cents.

Around the middle of the month a few scattered sales of 12-months' ewe wool

were made at 45 to 50 cents in Sacramento Valley.

COLORADO:

Some purchasing of West Slope wools between 40 and 46 cents is reported.

IDAHO:

Probably a million pounds of wool has been sold in Idaho since the middle of April, it is estimated. Prices have ranged from 40½ to 44¾ cents. Five wool pools made up of small farm clips have been sold. The report coming from Idaho is that buyers talk about a slow market but seem interested if wools can be purchased on what may be considered the low side.

MONTANA:

Some 10,630 fleeces were reported sold the first week of May by the First National Bank of Great Falls. Prices ranged between 40 and 47 cents. The top figure was paid for 800 fleeces in the Pendroy area.

The report for the second week of May covered 57,550 fleeces. The low price was 40 cents paid for a lot of 250 fleeces and the high, 49 cents paid for 2,200 fleeces in the Cascade section. Some 2,500 fleeces at Augusta brought 48½ cents. Bulk of the wools sold between 44 and 46 cents. In addition, around 4,800 fleeces were sold on a clean, landed Boston price of \$1.23, less two cents, grease basis, commission.

The week ending May 18, sales of 117,150 fleeces were made. They included four pools: A local pool of 35,000 fleeces at Jordan that sold at 43.6 cents; the Northeastern Montana pool of 15,000 fleeces that brought 44 cents; a Harlowton local pool of 10,000 fleeces that also sold at 44 cents and a pool of 35,000 fleeces in the Big Timber area that sold at 46.31 cents.

On the other wools sold that week, from 40 cents to 47 cents was paid. Three lots brought 46 cents and most of the other wools went at 44 and 45 cents.

NEVADA:

Wools have been moving in Nevada at 43 to 46 cents. One mixed clip involving 100,000 pounds sold at 46 to 50 cents.

NEW MEXICO:

Early in May 350,000 pounds of wool were reported sold at Roswell and Artesia. At Roswell prices ranged between 31¼ and 48¾ cents; at Artesia, between 35 and 48¾ cents. The better length fine wools at Artesia were estimated to have a clean, landed Boston value of \$1.18 to \$1.25; the shorter wools from \$1.04 to \$1.10. The clean, landed Boston price on good French

and staple wools at Roswell is between \$1.21 and \$1.24; on the average to good wools, \$1.15 to \$1.19 and on the shorter wools, \$1.05 to \$1.11.

OREGON:

Willamette Valley wools are reported as selling at 47 and 48 cents. Other sales are being made at 42½ and 43 cents.

The J. M. Coon Wool Company state they have sold a couple of hundred thousand pounds of graded wools at these Boston prices: \$1.20 for half blood; \$1.06 to \$1.08 for three-eighths blood; \$1.03 to \$1.04 for quarter blood.

A number of the larger Oregon and Washington clips have been sold direct to the Pendleton Woolen Mills on a clean basis, it is stated, but no details are available.

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Around 40,000 pounds of wool was

sold at Edgemont at \$1.18, delivered Boston, on a core-test basis, with a guarantee that marketing costs would not be more than four cents, grease basis. Another 8,000 pounds was also sold at the same place and on the same basis at \$1.03.

At Belle Fourche a sale of 150,000 pounds was made at 52 cents, grease basis, with all marketing charges paid by the buyer. Nine other sales in the Belle Fourche area were reported at 40 to 50.67 cents. A total of 12,890 fleeces were included. The low price was paid on 800 fleeces and all other prices were 45 cents and above, with two at 50 cents.

The Hafner Wool Company, Inc., of Newell reports the sale of 120,000 pounds of 12-months' wool in small lots on April 30. These lots were of mixed grades and sold as original bag at prices to net the growers from 49 to 51 cents.

DOMESTIC WOOL QUOTATIONS ON THE OPEN MARKET AT BOSTON NOT INCLUDING C.C.C. SALES PRICES Week Ending May 25, 1956

	CLEAN BASIS PRICES			GREASE EQUIVALENTS BASED UPON ARBITRARY SHRINKAGE PERCENTAGES (3)					
		%			%		%		
GRADED TERRITORY WOOLS (1)									
Fine:									
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	\$1.26—1.30	56	\$.55—	.57	59	\$.52—	.53
*Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.20—1.25	55		.54—	.56	60		.48—	.50
*Sh. Fr. Comb. & Clothing....	1.10—1.15	56		.49—	.51	61		.43—	.45
One-half Blood:									
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	1.18—1.22	51		.58—	.60	54		.54—	.56
*Av. to Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.05—1.10	52		.50—	.53	55		.47—	.50
Three-eighths Blood:									
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	1.06—1.10	48		.55—	.57	51		.52—	.54
*Ave. French Combing.....	1.00—1.05	49		.51—	.54	52		.48—	.50
One-Quarter Blood:									
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	1.02—1.06	46		.55—	.57	48		.53—	.55
*Ave. French Combing.....	.95—1.00	47		.50—	.53	49		.49—	.51
*Low Quarter Blood.....	.95—1.00	41		.56—	.59	43		.54—	.57
*Common & Braid.....	.90—	.95	40		.54—	.57	42		.52—

ORIGINAL BAG TERRITORY WOOLS (1)									
Fine:									
*Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	1.25—1.30	57		.54—	.56	59		.51—	.53
*Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.20—1.25	59		.49—	.51	61		.47—	.49

ORIGINAL BAG TEXAS WOOLS (2)									
Fine:									
Gd. Fr. Combing & Staple....	1.35—1.40	54		.62—	.64	58		.57—	.59
Ave. & Gd. Fr. Combing.....	1.27—1.33	55		.57—	.60	59		.52—	.55
*Sh. Fr. Comb. & Clothing....	1.20—1.25	57		.52—	.54	61		.47—	.49
*8 Months (1" and over).....	1.15—1.20	55		.52—	.54	58		.48—	.50
*Fall (¾" and over).....	1.10—1.15	56		.49—	.51	59		.45—	.47

(1) Wools grown in the range areas of Washington, Oregon, the intermountain States, including Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. These wools cover a wide range in shrinkage and color.

(2) Wools grown in the range areas of Texas, mostly bright in color and moderate in shrinkage except in the panhandle where they are considerably darker in color and heavier in shrinkage.

(3) In order to assist in estimating greasy wool prices, clean basis, market prices have been converted to grease basis equivalents. Conversions have been made for various shrinkages quoted. (Prices determined in this manner are largely nominal.)

*Estimated price. No sale reported.

TEXAS:

Activity in Texas was said to be increasing toward the end of the month. An estimated 400,000 to 500,000 pounds of good to average 12-months' wool was moved at an estimated clean, landed Boston price of \$1.30. The report is that growers in that State are not willing to sell wool of this type below that figure. Average staple wools were bringing \$1.25 to \$1.28. While no sales of volume were noted in 8-months' wool, it is reported that some wool of that type was selling at 50 to 53 cents in the grease.

UTAH:

Nearly all the Jericho wools, around 35,000 fleeces, were sold at shearing time under sealed bid sale. Prices ranged from 38 to 45 cents, mostly around 40 to 41 cents.

Early in May two or three clips at Heber were said to have been sold at 43 cents and a few farm flocks in Sanpete County went at 40 cents. At mid-month, numerous clips were reported sold at 42 to 44 cents, with the peak 45½ cents. A few sales were also made at 36 to 38 cents. At the end of the month wools were being picked up every day at 40 to 45 cents.

It is believed that 85 to 90 percent of this year's clip in Utah has been sold or consigned.

WASHINGTON:

A small volume of 12-months' ewe wool was being purchased from farm flock owners at 38 to 42 cents. Some of the larger clips reportedly have been sold direct to northwestern mills on a clean basis.

WYOMING:

A considerable movement of wools in the Rawlins area and a few sales at other points are reported. Some very light shrinking wools in the Pinedale area sold at 41 and 45 cents. From 38 to 41 cents was the range on a few other transactions.

CCC Wool Sales Move Well in May

MAY has been a good month in the disposal of the CCC wool stockpile. At the end of the fourth week, about 5,522,000 had been sold. With one more week to go, it was expected that the sale

quota for the month, 6¼ million pounds, would be reached.

Sales of the so-called main grades of wool are few, due, no doubt, to the fact that new wools of that type are now available. So far as we have been able to determine there has been no weakening in the upset prices on CCC wools; in fact, an increase was noted in some classes, especially in the fleece quarter blood wool in the third week's sale.

As will be noted in the details on sales of the first three weeks, many classifications are being cleaned up. Some 58 classifications had been closed out between April 26 and May 18.

Sales of 722,000 pounds, including wool tops, were announced on May 3. Bids were received on about 2,161,000 pounds. Included were these sales of graded Territory and original bag Texas wools:

Graded Territory

½ Blood Average and Good French.....	54,710
¼ Blood Short French and Clothing.....	4,788
¼ Blood Short French and Clothing 48/50s	1,192
Low ¼	103,525

Original Bag Texas

8 Months' Average to Short.....	3,452*
Fall Best Length.....	12,763

*No more of this class now left in inventory.

The second week some 778,000 pounds were sold. Bids were received on about 2,454,000 pounds. These sales of Territory and Texas wools were included:

Graded Territory

½ Blood Average and Good French.....	33,429
¼ Blood Staple and Good French 48/50s....	59,025
¼ Blood Average French 48/50s.....	129,476
¼ Blood Short French and Clothing 48/50s	381*
Low ¼	122,286

Original Bag Texas

12 Months' Crossbred Type Average French....	2,380*
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*No more of this class now left in inventory.

The big step-up came the third week when approximately 2,244,000 pounds were sold. Bids were received on about 5,814,000 pounds. The following sales of graded Territory and original bag Texas wools were made:

Graded Territory

Fine Staple and Good French.....	17,151
½ Blood Average and Good French.....	10,715
½ Blood Short French and Clothing.....	26,769
¾ Blood Average French.....	730,362*
¼ Blood Average French 48/50s.....	5,022*
Low ¼	59,234*
Low ¼ Short.....	507*
Common and Braid.....	1,320

Original Bag Texas

12 Months' Short French and Clothing.....	40,325*
Fall—Best Length.....	595,459

*No more of this class now left in inventory.

The fourth week approximately 1,778,000 pounds of wool were sold on bids covering 5,498,000 pounds. The dominant grades of wool sold were three-eighths and quarter blood. (Details are not available as we go to press.)

WOOL FUTURES TRADING

The Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange, Inc., celebrated its Silver Anniversary in May. Trading in wool tops futures began on May 18, 1931. The market for wool futures was opened ten years later.

In 1932, the first full year of trading in wool tops, the volume amounted to 1,090 contracts, representing 5,450,000 pounds of wool tops. In 1955 trading in wool tops alone amounted to 20,791 contracts representing 103,955,000 pounds of top, and in addition 10,753 contracts representing 64,518,000 clean pounds of wool traded in the wool futures market. The combined volume in 1955 represented the clean equivalent of 475 million pounds of greasy wool, more than twice the shorn production of the United States last year. In the most active year of trading during the Korean War in 1952, a total of 74,937 contracts traded, 33,969 in wool tops and 40,968 in wool.

Weekly Wool Trade Report
Wool Associates of N. Y.
Cotton Exchange

Sales Price Range (Clean Basis)

Pounds Sold	Sales Price Range
54,710	\$1.103
4,788	1.003 — 1.033
1,192	.78
103,525	.90 — .931

3,452*	.95 — .99
12,763	1.0725

Sales Price Range (Clean Basis)

Pounds Sold	Sales Price Range
33,429	\$1.103
59,025	1.04
129,476	.85 — .93
381*	.75
122,286	.87 — .93

2,380*	.85
--------	-----

Sales Price Range (Clean Basis)

Pounds Sold	Sales Price Range
17,151	\$1.30
10,715	1.103
26,769	1.003
730,362*	.90 — 1.00
5,022*	.85 — .88
59,234*	.86 — .92
507*	.85
1,320	.82

40,325*	.905 — 1.13
595,459	.85 — 1.082

Domestic Wool Prices Sag Behind Australian Selling

UNUSUALLY WIDE SPREAD PARTLY DUE TO GREATER DEMAND OUTSIDE U.S.

PARITY & AVERAGE PRICES APRIL 15, 1956

	Parity	Average Price
Wool	60.8	40.3 (1)
Lamb	\$23.60	\$18.20 (2)
		(1) 66 percent of parity
		(2) 77 percent of parity

QUOTED prices for domestic wool in Boston have not followed the rise in wool prices in Australia since March. As may be noted from the chart, Australian prices for selected wools have moved upward 10 cents or more, clean basis, in recent weeks while domestic wool prices have remained practically unchanged.

Australian prices, after some decline in late February and March, have recovered and are back approximately to their levels of July a year ago. However, U. S. prices, although having increased from November through February, have slipped back to or near their lows of last October and early November, and well below the prices during July, 1955.

As a result of this lag in domestic prices, the price spread between domestic and Australian wools is currently unusually wide. Except for a few instances, the spread is now wider than last summer and fall before the November-February increase in domestic prices. The extremely wide spread between Australian and domestic prices for the finer wools in 1953 was partly due to a greater increase in demand outside the U. S. than in this country. Also during the 1951-53 period, abnormally large quantities of wool tops (a semi-manufactured product) were imported into the U. S. with a consequent depressing effect on U. S. prices.

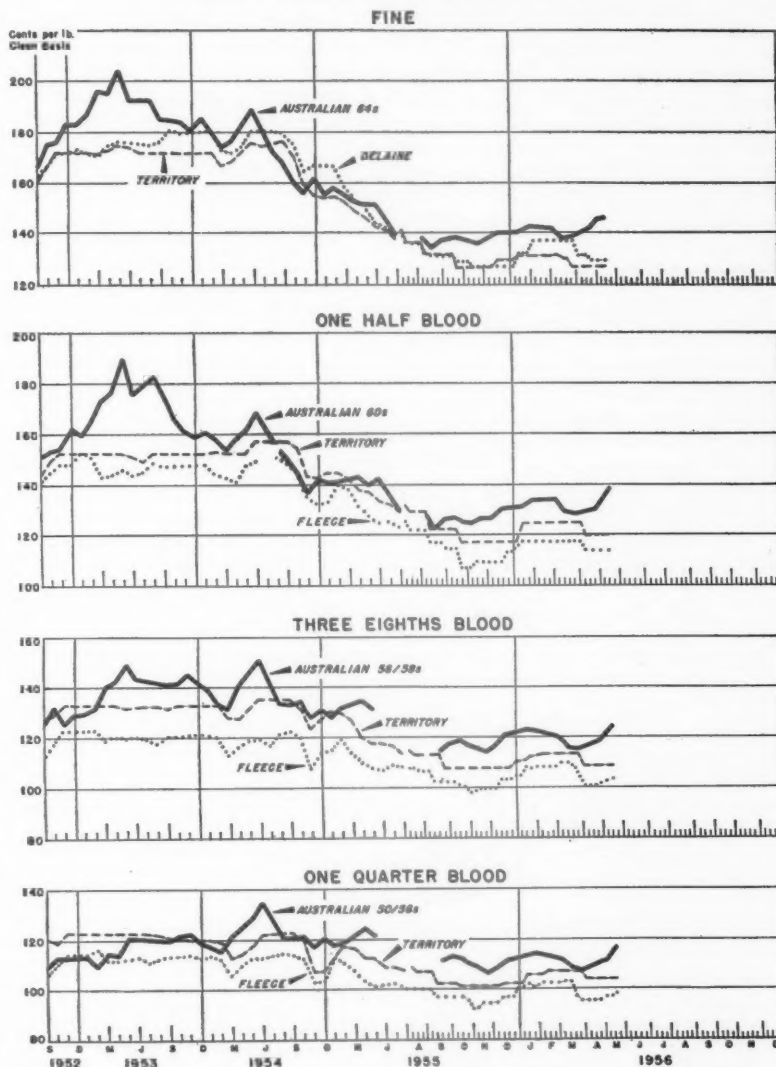
Prices in the world markets began to decline when the 1954-55 British Dominion marketing season opened in September 1954. Larger supplies of raw wool resulting from the slackening in demand plus an increase in world production started the price skid. During 1955 world consumption picked up, and production and consumption returned to better balance.

Mill consumption of apparel wool in the U. S. during the first quarter of this year was 12 percent greater than during the same period last year. Imports for the quarter were up 18 percent. Consumption on the worsted system, which generally uses the longer staple wools, was up 18 percent compared with an increase of six percent in the woolen system.

Trade reports indicate that orders to mills for wool fabrics are substantially larger than a year ago, with worsted all-wool fabrics for the higher-priced garments showing the greater increase.

As is always the case, wool growers should consider all factors affecting the general wool situation when selling their wool. Under the wool payment program, the higher the price the individual grower obtains for his wool in the market, the greater his incentive payment.

PRICES FOR WOOL AT BOSTON AND SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA*



*Prices for Australian 64's and 60's are for good to average wools and for 56/58's and 50/56's are for crossbred fleece combing wools landed Boston (duty paid), as reported in "Daily News Record," adjusted to American yield and for market preparation; quotations for domestic territory and fleece wools which are for good French combing and staple wools and for Delaine were compiled from "Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market."



Report: MAY LAMB MARKET

Spring Prices Reach Three-Year High

THE time-worn lyrical phrase—"Every cloud has its silver lining"—was sung to sheepmen loud and strong in the month of May, 1956.

For three years, sheepmen have watched lamb prices jump up and down, mostly down. But for those who had spring slaughter lambs ready for market during May, blue skies were finally opened up. A three-year high price of \$28.50 was paid for choice and prime spring slaughter offerings at Denver during the month.

Steady sales throughout the latter part of May were made on top quality spring slaughter lambs from \$25 to \$28. On reaching a higher plateau, the market was a bit wobbly, with yo-yoing dressed carcass prices taking their effect.

Specialty slaughter lamb sales in Chicago reached as high as \$30 for a few lightweight offerings to be used for the Greek Easter holiday.

Choice and prime slaughter lamb prices started the month at \$22, climbed rapidly to around \$25, then hit the \$28.50 figure, sagged a bit and seemed to strengthen as the month dimmed out.

Prices were steadier at Denver and Chicago during May than at Ogden and Omaha where some weakening was noted. Most top-quality spring slaughter lamb sales were made in a \$24 to \$25.75 range at Ogden. At this terminal market, as at all others, receipts were off considerably from a month ago and a year ago. (See chart at bottom of page.)

Perhaps a majority of the good and choice spring slaughter lambs were sold at Fort Worth. These lambs sold in a May price range of from \$19 to \$27.75. The low price was paid late in the month at Fort Worth on heavy receipts, and the high was a steady figure at Denver from mid-May.

Most good and choice sales at Denver, Omaha, Chicago and Ogden were made in a \$23.50 to \$26 price range. The market for these spring slaughter lambs was erratic at Fort Worth where an early month high of \$27 was paid, dropping to the \$19 figure late in the month. The median price figure at the Texas market would near \$23.

Any unevenness noted in the live lamb market was more or less of a reflection on developments in the whole-

sale dressed trade where prices varied considerably.

Choice and prime dressed carcasses at New York sold in a May price range of from \$42 to \$64, reaching the high on the 10th of the month and sagging slightly to a \$52 to \$60 range as the month neared its close.

Good and choice carcasses sold very close to the above figures. The range was \$41 to \$64 in May, with erratic changes noted during the month. Wholesale prices on these carcasses closed in a \$51 to \$57 range.

May's slaughter ewe prices weakened considerably. Good and choice quality sold in a \$4.50 to \$7.75 price range. Most top grade slaughter ewes sold from \$4.50 to \$6.25.

Cull and utility slaughter ewes sold from \$2 to \$6.75, bulking at \$3 to \$5.

Feeder lambs were quite scarce during the month. Most sales of these lambs were made at Fort Worth and in a \$14 to \$16.50 price range. Some late-month feeder lamb sales were reported at Omaha from \$19 to \$21.

COUNTRY SALES AND CONTRACTING CALIFORNIA

Most late May deliveries of spring slaughter lambs to packers in California were from previous contracts. A few loads of choice offerings sold for immediate delivery at \$24 delivered to plant; other good and choice offerings at \$23.

Earlier in the month some mostly

choice spring slaughter lambs sold in the San Joaquin Valley at \$25. Some mostly choice, usually under 100 pounds, spring slaughter lambs sold early in the Sacramento Valley at \$23.50 to \$24.50.

In the Williams area of the Sacramento Valley, around 1,500 to 2,000 fleshy 88-pound feeder lambs sold at \$23, straight across, weighing conditions and delivery date unknown. Earlier in May some feeder lambs were sold at \$20 in the San Joaquin Valley.

IDAHO

In mid-May Idaho selling, a few loads of choice and prime spring slaughter lambs sold in pools at \$25.50 to \$25.60 for immediate delivery. Eight doubles sold a week earlier at \$25.85, while prices ranged from \$25.50 to \$25.85, for immediate delivery.

One string of range lambs south of the Rogerson (Twin Falls) district sold for June 1 delivery at \$20 straight across for all over 60 pounds at \$18.

WASHINGTON

Trucklots of good and choice slaughter spring lambs under 100 pounds sold for immediate delivery to plant basis in Washington at \$23 to \$23.50. Earlier in May some 2,000 head of Washington range spring lambs were contracted at \$20.50, delivery to plant basis, latter part of July; a similar number of lambs on straight-across basis at \$18, July delivery.

First contracts of the 1956 season were written on some 10,000 Washington spring lambs at \$18, those bands normally sorting over 50 percent in slaughter flesh, delivery to railhead and 12-hour stand, or 4 percent shrink, buyer to take as many fat lambs as wanted in June and delivery to be completed before end of July.

Trucklots of mixed aged Washington

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

	1956	1955
Total U. S. Inspected		
Slaughter, First Four Months	4,676,000	4,836,000
Week Ended	May 19	May 21
Slaughter at Major Centers	201,855	257,483
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Spring):		
Choice and Prime	\$26.60	\$19.98*
Good and Choice	25.45	18.92*
New York Av. Western Dressed Lamb Prices:		
Prime, 40-50 pounds	53.70	43.00
Choice, 40-50 pounds	53.70	40.00

Federally Inspected Slaughter—April

	1956	1955
Cattle	1,545,000	1,452,000
Calves	604,000	596,000
Hogs	5,252,000	4,472,000
Sheep and Lambs	1,129,000	1,180,000

*Wooled Basis

ewes in the wool with lamb at side sold at \$20 per pair, delivered to railhead, some shown \$15 per pair.

OREGON

In late-month Oregon contracting a band of 4,000 spring lambs brought \$19.25 and another 3,800 sold at \$18.75, those July delivery, straight-across basis, delivered to railhead, overnight stand.

Numerous early May contracts were written on spring lambs at \$17.50 to \$19 for mixed bands, mostly June and July delivery; one band 1200 head eastern Oregon slaughter spring lambs sold at \$20 for June 15 delivery.

Around 1,400 head of mixed age ewes with lambs at side sold at \$18 per pair, delivery late May out of the wool; some 1,000 head of yearling ewes sold at \$21 per head near immediate delivery out of the wool.

MONTANA

Fall trading activity for season to date largely of a specialty nature, dealing with mixed blackfaced lambs; bulk of sales out of first hands at \$17. Most sales for September delivery with weighing conditions varying from overnight stand to 4 percent shrink, or in cases where gathering is from high elevations, lambs are trailed off mountains and weighed.

Around 15,000 head of blackfaced wether lambs are reported contracted for fall delivery to the Corn Belt at \$16, these evidently sorted off previously contracted mixed lambs.

Earlier trading on lambs for fall delivery consisted primarily of mixed blackfaced ranging from \$16.75 to \$17.50.

There were a few bands of mostly whitefaces contracted for fall delivery at \$17 but indications point that buyers are interested in acquisition of ewe lambs.

Between 3,500 and 4,000 ewe lambs sold early in the Dillon area at \$18.25, weighing condition from overnight stand to 4 percent shrink. Some 3,500 head of blackfaced yearling ewes sold in the Cut Bank area out of the wool for July delivery at \$22.25 per head. Toward the end of the month 1,500 head of blackfaced yearling ewes sold out of the wool for July delivery and reflected weaker tone at \$21 per head.

TEXAS

Approximately 4,000 spring stocker and feeder lambs in several bands from Uvalde-Del Rio area sold at \$16.50, and several thousand shorn feeder lambs moved lately at \$16 out of southwest Texas.

National Livestock Promotion Board Approved; Objectives Planned

THE formation of a National Livestock Promotion Board was approved by representatives from 18 out of 21 States attending a Livestock Meat Promotion Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, on April 26, 1956.

This Board, under the approved plan, would be composed of the following organizations (the number of members for each organization is shown):

National Sheep Council (National Wool Growers, National Lamb Feeders)—5

National Swine Council—5

National Beef Council—3

Corn Belt Feeders Association—2

Iowa Beef Producers Association—1

American National Cattlemen's Association—1

American Farm Bureau—1

National Grange—1

Farmers Union—1

National Live Stock and Meat Board—1

The purpose and objectives of the Board were approved as follows:

A. To assist in the organization and development of State and national cattle, hog and sheep producers' product promotion organizations through coordination and dissemination of information, suggestions and advice.

B. To coordinate the action and work of the livestock producer promotion organizations in those areas of common interest and concern.

C. To take action to remove present legal obstacles in any uniform mark-off system for the collection of funds at the time and place of sale of livestock to be used to defray the cost of such programs.

D. To develop the cooperation of marketing agencies, processors and retailers with livestock producer promotion organizations.

The Board is empowered to call related segments of the industry in an advisory capacity and was directed by resolution to organize and appoint such committees as are necessary to perform the work and accomplish the objectives of the Board.

While a uniform mark-off system for collecting funds at the time and place of livestock sales is proposed, it was very definitely brought out in the discussion that such a program would necessarily provide for a refund of such deduction to the producer if he so desired.

J. C. Holbert, president of the Iowa Beef Producers Association, was named temporary chairman of the National Livestock Promotion Board to advance its organization.

Kansas and Minnesota voted against the proposal and Florida declined to vote, but in that State they are now making a check-off on beef cattle.

Conference registration showed the following western men in attendance at the meeting: Jesse T. Bell and Carl L. Garrison, California; Ray Burke and G. N. Winder, Colorado; Forest Noel, Montana; Fred H. Dressler, Nevada; Harry Blair, L. R. Houck, Arley Hill, Don McMurchie, Stanley P. Munger, Claude E. Olson, W. C. Taylor, Joe Trotter and Clyde Young, South Dakota; A. K. Barton, Utah; Norm Barlow, Bill Chapman, Robert Hanesworth and Leonard Hay, Wyoming.

"It's your duty

as a sheepman serving your fellowman
to raise good lamb to feed a nation,
good wool to clothe a nation."

"It's my duty

in life to get the full market value for
your product—LAMB."

Ship 'em to . . .



MIKE HAYES

Union Stockyards - - - Denver, Colorado
Bonded Member Denver Livestock Exchange



Idaho TV Program Boosts Contest

A Boise, Idaho television program introduced the "Make It Yourself With Wool" contest in that area on April 27. Former contest participants modeled all-wool wardrobes on the "Bonnie Wallis" TV program. All arrangements for the show were made by the Idaho Women's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Earl Wright, National Auxiliary president, was narrator of the show. Myrl Heller, Idaho State contest director, commented on the contest for this year, and reported on the long list of prizes available to contest winners.

In addition to the style show promoting wool, a dish of "Lamb Curry" was demonstrated by Mrs. Wright in her interview with Program Director Bonnie Wallis.

Salt Lake Group Installs Officers

THE Salt Lake Chapter of the Utah Wool Growers Auxiliary installed officers for the coming year at a luncheon at the Ambassador Club on May 14. Mrs. Willard Petersen, retiring president, presided over the meeting.

New officers included Mrs. Alden K. Barton, president; Mrs. Willard Petersen, vice president; Mrs. Scott A. Smith, recording secretary; Mrs. Don Kenney, treasurer; Mrs. I. H. Jacobs, auditor, and Mrs. James A. Hooper, historian.

Mrs. Petersen and Mrs. Ray J. Clark, also a past president, were presented with gifts of appreciation for their work.

Following luncheon, Auxiliary members drove out to the new warehouse of the Utah Wool Marketing Association. They first listened to a talk on the wool incentive payment and then were given

a guided tour through the warehouse and had an opportunity of watching skillful operators sorting and grading wools from the 1956 clip. All agreed that it was a most instructive meeting, and made a fine close to the season's work.

News from Colorado

THE members of the Rio Blanco Wool Growers Auxiliary have a novel way to raise funds. They have asked each wool grower in Rio Blanco County to donate three fleeces. The fleeces will be sacked and sold. The proceeds will be divided between the Rio Blanco Wool Growers Auxiliary, the Colorado Wool Growers Auxiliary and the "Make It Yourself With Wool Contest" for District 2.

—Mrs. Nick Theos, Meeker, Colo.

MRS. Max Osborn, Fruita, Colorado, was hostess to 26 members of the Mesa County Wool Growers Auxiliary on Tuesday, May 8. A covered dish luncheon was served at noon, followed by a social afternoon of bridge and canasta. This was the last meeting for the year. Plans were discussed for the annual convention of the Colorado Wool Growers Association at Harbor Hotel, Steamboat Springs, July 24-26.

—Mrs. Robert Burford,
Grand Junction, Colorado

Lamb Featured on TV

LAMB has been featured a couple of times recently on Margaret Masters' famous TV show in Salt Lake City. First Mrs. Delbert Chipman of American Fork, Utah, chairman of the National Auxiliary's lamb promotion

Texas Women Promote Hamburgers

"LET'S eat hamburgers" has been the slogan of members of The Hill Country Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association since they began their lamburger project this spring.

This project had its beginning when interested members donated meat to be used for lamburger to serve at the Kerr County Centennial celebration. It seemed logical and worth-while to boost lamb in an area where sheep raising is a foremost industry.

Actually, the sheep butchered were yearling and two-year-old fat muttons. The ground meat patties were served between buns with a sauce made of salad dressing, mustard and Heinz Barbecue Sauce. The tasty lamburgers were approved by such gourmets as Texas Governor Allan Shivers; sheep specialist, Jim Gray and rancher, Felix Real, Jr.

The lamburgers were sold in one location on the Court House Square and drive-in owners re-

ported that they also received inquiries for lamburgers. Members plan to continue boosting lamburgers.

Let's eat hamburgers because it can mean a lot to producers! Let's eat lamburgers because they taste so good!

—Mrs. George Holekamp,
President, Hill Country Chapter



Texas Governor Allan Shivers paused during Centennial celebration to sample a real Hill Country treat, lamburger.

committee, had a butcher cut up an entire lamb carcass into chops, the way Mrs. Chipman handles lamb for her own use.

On a second show, Mrs. Emory C. Smith of Salt Lake City—a very active and efficient Auxiliary worker—prepared barbecued lamb shanks and hamburgers. For the lamb shanks she used the Oregon Auxiliary's recipe and for the hamburgers, that of their originators, the Washington Auxiliary, with their famous relish—one part chopped peppers and three parts chopped onions.

Clean and Store Woolens

STORE your clean woolens today and keep the moths away. That's advice from home economics specialists at the Max C. Fleischmann College of Agriculture, University of Nevada.

If you want sweaters, blankets, and wool socks whole, not "holed," in the

fall, wash and air them now. Food and grease spots left on garments are appetizing bait for hungry moths and their larvae. Moths will start on these soiled spots first.

Gently wash all the washable garments, send the other woolens or synthetics to the cleaners, then store all in closed garment bags. A trick for storing is to use inexpensive plastic-type food saver bags. A large bag will hold a folded sweater, a knit dress or several pair of socks. These are fine for storing baby's outgrown woolens too.

Lastly, after cleaning and covering, don't put the woolens back into a dusty place. Go over closets and drawers with vacuum attachments. Moths love lint, hidden dust and dark places. "So be tough," conclude the home economists, "give them no place to hide and they'll soon depart for greener pastures."

FASHIONS IN FOOD

Meat Board Cooking School in Salt Lake

Editor's Note: Each year when the National Live Stock and Board, in cooperation with the local newspapers, puts on its famous cooking school in Salt Lake City, as many as possible of the distaff side of the NWGA's personnel attend different sessions. They are then asked to prepare a brief report. This year Mrs. Bulia H. Anderson, our bookkeeper, and Miss Gladys Mike, secretary to Executive Secretary E. E. Marsh, went to school sessions. Their reactions are given here.

THE very popular cooking school sponsored by the newspapers of Salt Lake City and the National Live Stock

A FATHER'S DAY WOOL PROMOTION



CAUGHT IN THE ACT. Although they won't come as a surprise, these wool challis ties and all-wool socks are just what he needs.



IT'LL BE A COOL June 17 for this Dad in his family's gift of Bermuda shorts. They're tan and gray flecked tropical wool worsted.



WHAT MAN WOULDN'T be pleased when Father's Day brings a new summerweight sports jacket? This one, in featherlight gray and white basketweave wool, weighs only one pound.

THERE are several occasions during the year when the man of the house deserves a little extra attention, but there's one special day (this year it's June 17) that belongs to him alone—Father's Day.

Once upon a time, when the American man took little interest in his clothes, shopping for Father's Day was a real problem. However, men now take an active interest in matters sartorial, and any gift that is a practical and fashionable addition to the male wardrobe is sure to evoke genuine smiles of approval on the morning of June 17. Any list of suitable selections should include the following items:

- Tropical worsted walk shorts
- Knee length wool socks
- Wool challis ties
- Summerweight wool challis bathrobe
- Wool jersey bathing trunks

- A vacation-time lightweight lamb's wool or shetland sweater
- A tropical worsted suit or sportjacket or combination gift from the family

Consider Combination Gift

Perhaps you've decided that the breadwinner in your family deserves something "extra special" this year. Why not a really worthwhile gift for which the whole family chips in?

There's a new sportjacket available which is outstandingly suitable for this purpose. It's a true summerweight jacket in off-white or gray-and-white striped tropical wool worsted, Ivy League style, with three button front. And here's the payoff—the whole garment weighs a mere one pound. There just isn't any sportjacket that's cooler, or more in step with today's style trends for men.

—The Wool Bureau, Inc.



HOME ECONOMISTS

Miss Geraldine Lien, left, and Miss Patricia Bohm and lamb dish.

and Meat Board was in progress for four half-days from May 15th to 18th inclusive at the Capitol Theatre. The title of the school was "Fashions in Foods."

Meat Board representatives who did such a wonderful job of preparing the food and explaining each step on the procedure were Miss Geraldine Lien and Miss Patricia Bohm. The school was presented to a capacity audience of interested ladies, and some gentlemen, (the S.R.O. sign is always up at these schools).

Miss Lien and Miss Bohm prepared their delicious and enticing food in a very modern kitchen, with all the latest gadgets to assist them. One of the meats prepared was, of course, lamb—Lamb with Tangy Tomato Sauce. It was economical as well as very appetite-appealing. Miss Lien pointed out that there were no tough pieces of meat—its tenderness depends on the way you cook it, and if you follow the cooking instructions for each specific cut, it will come out as delicious as you had anticipated. She also stressed that one should always use the proper amount of seasoning to bring out the full flavor of the meat.

After preparing the tempting meat dishes which included Roast Pork Tenderloin, Gourmet's Swiss Steak, Stuffed Beef Leg and Fiesta Ham Kabobs, the girls also prepared a Sunglow apple pie, cookies and banana milk shake. The milk shake was prepared by using bananas and ice cream only. It made an eye-appealing dessert which drew many delighted "oh's" and "ah's" from the audience.

Miss Lien stated that it was now patio meal time and that food should be just as appealing to the eye for outdoor eating as it was in the house during the winter. At the close of the class the meat and other dishes prepared were displayed with mirrors so

that all could see the mouth-watering appeal they presented with their colorful garnish.

Following the display the foods were presented to lucky ticket holders. There were also many useful gifts presented during the school with the grand prize a three-day vacation for two at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada, including a round trip via Western Air Lines. —B. H. A.

Thursday (May 17) was "NUTRITION DAY" and when it comes to nutrition, lamb is right up on top. Miss Lien stressed the value of lamb meat nutrition-wise and pointed out that lamb was just as high in protein as beef and contained many valuable minerals and vitamins. She stressed that many people thought they didn't like lamb, when actually they had never tasted it. They have lived their entire lives just having certain kinds and cuts of meat, she said, and eating and liking lamb was largely a matter of getting used to it.

Miss Lien told of a survey that had been made which revealed that out of the 200 different cuts of meat available, most people never use more than about 20 cuts during a lifetime. With all these various cuts available, she told the audience, there was no reason for anyone to get tired of any one cut. Last year the American people consumed

161 pounds of meat per capita.

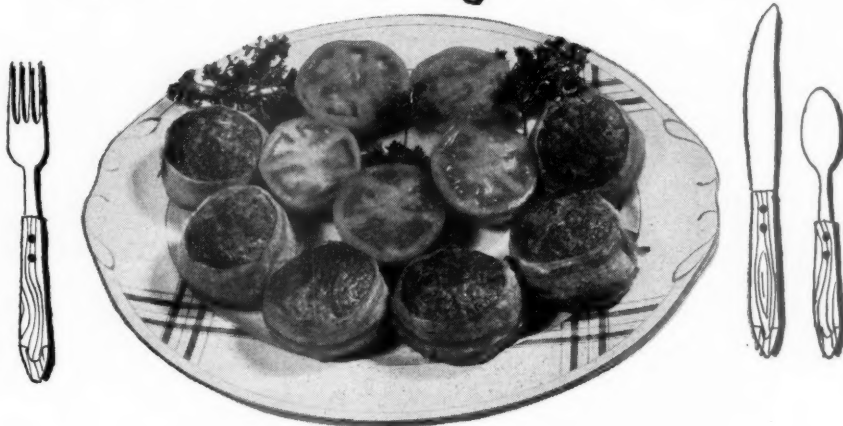
The first tempting dish on the program of the cooking school on Thursday was a rolled lamb shoulder roast. Miss Lien told the audience that there were three ways to buy a square-cut lamb shoulder (1) with the blade and arm bones left in (however, she pointed out this cut was hard to carve); (2) with those bones taken out and the cavity used for stuffing—commonly known as a cushion lamb shoulder; or (3) with the bones taken out and rolled. One more example of the versatility of lamb, Miss Lien stated.

Our cooking expert stressed the importance of leaving the fell on a lamb roast because in addition to retaining the meat juices and the shape of the roast, it helped to retain the heat, possibly requiring less cooking time. On lamb chops the fell is removed, she pointed out, because it tends to shrink during the cooking process causing the chops to curl.

Also she told them to always serve lamb either very hot or very cold—never lukewarm because the fat changes a little at room temperature giving the lamb an undesirable flavor. She said lamb meat could be cooked either medium or well done, but most people prefer it cooked to a well-done stage.

—G. M.

Lamb Dish of the Month



LAMB PATTIES WRAPPED IN BACON

- 1½ pounds ground lamb
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 6 slices bacon
- 3 tomatoes, halved
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted

Mix lamb and seasonings. Shape into six patties. Wrap each patty with ba-

con slice and fasten with wooden pick. Place patties on broiler rack. Insert broiler rack and pan so that the top of patties is 2 to 3 inches from the heat. Broil patties 8 to 10 minutes or until browned; turn. Brush tomato halves with butter and place on broiler rack. Broil until patties and tomatoes are nicely browned about 8 minutes. 6 servings.

(Department of Home Economics, National Live Stock and Meat Board)

this month's QUIZ



What advantages or disadvantages do you see in selling sheep and lambs at auction?

Auctions are the only way to sell sheep here, since we have very many small farm flocks. In the fall, the auction designates certain sale days for the "lamb pool." Lambs are penned by grade and sold. This way a buyer can get enough of a particular grade to make a truck or carload.

I feed sheep from October 15 to May 5-17. Then they go on irrigated pasture. Pasture is divided into nine small pastures for rotation. I carry 15 to 18 head per acre.

—Marshall A. Neubert
Twisp, Washington

I have not had very much experience with auction selling. I sold once two years ago by auction at Idaho Falls, and I was satisfied with the transaction. It was pretty well in line with order buyers.

—Emery Hanson
Central, Idaho

I believe that there is a great potential for developing a good auction sale at the central markets. It seems that the trend is toward the auction method of selling livestock.

I am aware of the fact that it has been tried before, but at that time the commission firms operating on the market all used the auction or did not use it as they desired. Under the present proposal I understand one concern will operate the auction and nothing else.

I sincerely believe that the auction should be given a good trial.

—G. N. Winder
Denver, Colorado

I think the auction system is a good way to sell lambs. I have sold some at Idaho Falls. Sometimes a feeder buyer will be able to pay more for a fat lamb than a packer would pay. They buy in anticipation of upcoming prices. Sometimes they have extra pastures. There are usually many different types of buyers at an auction.

—Peter M. Hansen
Salmon, Idaho

Successful merchandising of any commodity is the ability to have available suitable quality in kind and numbers which will attract the greatest number of buyers.

Without a buyer you have no market.

It is the buyers and not the sellers who will decide whether they like an auction or not.

—Robert M. Naylor
Emmett, Idaho

I have had no experience with auctions. I have only visited some to listen, although I've bought some bucks at the National Ram Sale.

In my opinion, lambs could, in some cases, be sold too fast and not at the highest possible prices. By private treaty you have more of a chance to obtain the last penny possible, and have some say on your own lambs.

—William B. Young
Coalville, Utah

I have no special ideas as to how this would work in this area. It might be the answer, especially on ewe lamb selling. Our ewe lambs should go west to western breeders, not east to slaughter.

—Glenn Taylor
Midwest, Wyoming

Here at Roswell, New Mexico, we use the auction ring. I believe it to be a great advantage here. We thought it would be useful only for small numbers of livestock, however, as many as 500 to 1,000 head have been through as a group. Prices were good. I also believe that prices are better in the ring than through contracting. The ring furnishes a market the year around for livestock.

—W. C. Treat
Roswell, New Mexico

Selling sheep and lambs at auction will probably work out all right at the larger selling points. To be successful, there must be enough sheep sold to at-



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12 and 14 FOOT

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The All American Breed

DO YOU WANT:



Large attractive sheep?
Open face sheep?
Good herding sheep?
Good lambing sheep?
Heavy shearing sheep?

If the answer is yes—
then you want Columbias

COLUMBIA SHEEP BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

P. O. Box 315, Logan, Utah
Alma Explin, Secretary

"Always 100% Virgin Wool"

Pendleton

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
SPORTSWEAR
LOUNGING ROBES
BED BLANKETS
RANCHWEAR

Pendleton Woolen Mills

Portland 4, Oregon

tract plenty of buyers. This can hardly be done at the smaller country sales.

I believe the system works very well for selling cattle, especially where large numbers are grouped. This would not work so well with lambs at the smaller places, because of the difficulty

of holding enough offerings for a large sale.

—Charles M. Colton
Baker, Oregon

I don't believe there would be too much advantage of selling lambs at an auction, especially fat lambs. Packers are the only ones who buy these lambs, and they more or less have a price they will pay and that's it.

It could be that there would be some advantage in selling feeder lambs, since most feeders are farmers. Most of them would be willing to pay maybe a little more for exceptional good lots of feeder lambs where they come through the ring and they can see them. This would necessitate bringing these people to the auction ring. At the present time I believe most of them buy their lambs through a middle man, and they never see their lambs until they are shipped to them.

—Kenneth L. Mott
Sunnyside, Washington

It might work all right at some of the big markets, but at the small country auctions the buyers get together and steal the lambs.

—Everett Morgan
Granger, Washington

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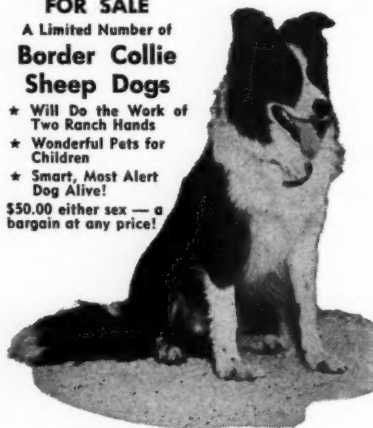
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HEADS MANUFACTURERS

T. B. Nilsen was named president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers at its 91st annual meeting in New York City on May 3. Mr. Nilsen is president, treasurer and general manager of Clinton Woolen Manufacturing Company of Clinton, Michigan and a former president of the Midwest Woolen Manufacturers Association.

Glen F. Brown was reelected secretary-treasurer, and Edwin Wilkinson continues as executive vice president, a post he has held since 1952.

GEORGIA SHEEP EXPANSION

The sheep program commenced in Georgia late in 1954 has resulted in a sheep population increase from 7,000 to some 30,000 today, and indications point to another 30,000 head being added this year. The program, according to a recent press item, is being conducted by the Extension Service and the Citizens and Southern National Bank. They hope to make sheep production a major industry of the State.

TWUA ASKS TEXTILE STUDY

The Textile Workers Union of America, at their recent convention in Washington, D. C., asked for a Congressional investigation of textile industry problems and for a blocking by the Administration of rapidly rising

imports of textiles and apparel from Japan and other low-wage areas.

It was the TWUA also that started the investigation by the Committee for Reciprocity Information into the need for increasing the ad valorem tariff rates on wool fabric imports. (Executive Secretary Marsh represented the National Wool Growers Association in the CRI hearings in April on this question.)

PEXTON HEADS SHOW

L. M. Pexton, president of the Denver Union Stockyard Company, was unanimously elected president of the National Western Stock Show on May 11 at the organization's annual meeting in Denver. A long-time member of the Stock Show's executive committee, Pexton succeeds the late Wilson McCarthy who was president of the show from 1942 until his death last February.

Albert K. Mitchell of Albert, New Mexico, was elected first vice president of the National Western and E. H. "Ned" Grant of Littleton, Colorado, was chosen second vice president. A. Reinhardt of Denver was reelected secretary-treasurer. Willard Simms, Denver, will continue as general manager.

Dates of next year's National Western were announced for January 11 through 19, 1957.

PACIFIC GROWERS ELECT

Gaylord Madison of Echo, Oregon, was reelected president of the Pacific Wool Growers at the first meeting of the new board of directors in Portland on April 6. Ronald V. Hogg and R. A. Ward were reelected vice presidents, and G. R. Kappler was elected secretary-treasurer, replacing Edwin L. Adams, deceased.

Members of the Executive Committee for the coming year are: Gaylord Madison, ex officio; R. V. Hogg, Stanley Christensen, Floyd M. Edwards and G. A. Sandner.

AVERAGE 1955 PRICES

U. S. farmers received these average prices per hundredweight on meat animals during 1955 compared with 1954:

	1954	1955
Lambs	\$19.10	\$18.40
Sheep	6.14	5.87
Beef cattle	16.00	15.60
Calves	16.50	16.70
Hogs	21.60	15.00

In the eight mountain States—Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming—the average on lambs for 1955 was \$17.90, as against \$18.30 in 1954 and in the three Pacific States, the average price was \$18.10 in 1955 and \$19.10 in 1954.

Breeders Directory

(Order your listing through the National Wool Growers Association Company, 414 Crandall Building, Salt Lake City 1, Utah)

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BARTON, ALDEN K.
Manti, Utah
BRADFORD, MARK
Spanish Fork, Utah
ELKINGTON BROS.
Idaho Falls, Idaho
HANSEN, WYNN S.
Collinston, Utah
HANSON, MARK B.
Spanish Fork, Utah
HOWEY, VERN
Center, Colorado
LIND & SONS, ELMER
Vernal, Utah
MARKLEY & SON, J. P.
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Gillette, Wyoming
MT. HAGGIN LIVESTOCK CO.
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NORDAN, L. A.
711 Ranch, Boerne, Texas
PFISTER, JOSEPH
Node, Wyoming
ROBINSON, R. (BOB)
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SHOWN, R. J. (BOB)
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OLSEN BROS.
Spanish Fork, Utah
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HAMPSHIRE
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ROCK AND SON, P. J.
Drumheller, Alta., Canada
TEDMON LIVESTOCK
Rte. 3, Ft. Collins, Colorado

PANAMAS

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Rupert, Idaho
LAIDLAW, FRED M.
Muldoon, Idaho
MEULEMAN & SONS, HARRY
Rupert, Idaho, Rte. 1
RICKS BROS.
Rte. 1, Idaho Falls, Idaho

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BEAL, DR. JOHN H.
Cedar City, Utah
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Plainview, Texas
FOX, FLOYD T.
Silverton, Oregon
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Star Route, Menan, Idaho
GRENVILLE & TRENTHAM
Morrin, Alta., Canada
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JENKINS, ALLAN
Newton, Utah
LAIDLAW, FRED M.
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MAYFIELD, CHAS. W.
Riverdale Farms, Sherman, Ill.
MOON, MYRTHE N.
Springville, Utah
OLSEN BROS.
Spanish Fork, Utah
PEMBROOK, RALPH
Big Lake, Texas
ROCK AND SON, P. J.
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1957

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

National Association Events

July 17-18: Meetings of NWGA Executive Committee and AWC Council of Directors, Helena, Montana.
AUGUST 16-17: NATIONAL RAM SALE, OGDEN, UTAH.
January 21-24, 1957: 92nd annual meeting, NWGA, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Conventions and Meetings

June 14-15: California Wool Growers' Convention, Davis, California.
July 10: Arizona Wool Growers' Convention, Flagstaff, Arizona.
July 24-26: Colorado Wool Growers' Convention, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
November 9-10: Oregon Wool Growers' Convention, Portland, Oregon.
November 10: California Association's Board of Directors' Meeting, San Francisco.
November 11-13: Idaho Wool Growers' Convention, Pocatello, Idaho.
November 14-16: National Lamb Feeders' Convention, St. Joseph, Missouri.
November 23-24: Western South Dakota Sheep Growers' Convention, Belle Fourche, South Dakota.
November 27-29: Wyoming Wool Growers' Convention, Buffalo, Wyoming.
December 3-5: Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Convention, San Angelo, Texas.
JANUARY 21-24, 1957: NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

Sales

July 23: Northern Colorado Hampshire Sheep Sale, Greeley, Colorado.
August 1: Idaho State Ram Sale, Filer, Idaho.
August 2-3: New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
August 3-4: Nevada Ram Sale, Ely, Nevada.
AUGUST 16-17: NATIONAL RAM SALE, OGDEN, UTAH.
September 13: Salt Lake Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
September 15: Idaho Range Ram Sale, Pocatello, Idaho.
September 18-19: Wyoming Ram Sale, Casper, Wyoming.
September 20: Montana Ram Sale, Miles City, Montana.
September 25: Vernal Ram Sale, Vernal, Utah.
September 26: Idaho Purebred Breeders' Sale, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
October 11: Utah State Ram Sale, Spanish Fork, Utah.

Shows

June 6-7: Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, Salt Lake City, Utah.
September 6-8: Utah State Suffolk Sheep Show, Nephi, Utah.
October 20-27: Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oregon.
October 20-27: American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City, Missouri.
October 26-27: Columbia Sheep Show and Sale, Kenton, Ohio.
November 2-11: Grand National Livestock Exposition, Cow Palace, San Francisco.
November 16-21: Golden Spike Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.
January 11-19, 1957: National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

Around the Range Country

Around the Range Country gives our readers a chance to express their opinions about anything pertaining to the industry or about life in general. In offering this space for free expression of thought, the National Wool Grower assumes no responsibility for any statement made. The statements about range pasture conditions are taken from the U. S. Weather Bureau report for the week ending May 21, 1956.

PASTURES

In the Pacific coastal regions, the Far Northwest, and most Northern Border districts pastures and ranges are improved, and many are now developing rather rapidly as a result of the warmer weather and recent showers. However, the lack of moisture over the areas from Nebraska and Iowa southwestward over the western portions of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona has resulted in very poor ranges, and supplemental feeding and watering of livestock is necessary to maintain them in good condition. In the eastern portions of Texas and Oklahoma livestock are gaining in weight as a result of improved grazing lands. Eastward to the Atlantic Coast pastures are in mostly good to excellent condition and providing adequate grazing in most areas, although moisture would be helpful locally in the Southeast. In the more northern areas in the East the cool weather has retarded the growth of grasses and frequent rains have kept fields too wet for pasturing livestock.

ARIZONA

Temperatures above normal most of week. Shower activity at higher elevations in north and central latter half of week. Widely scattered showers in southeast Sunday. Good alfalfa yield reported. Ranges continue dry over most of State and supplementary feeding and watering continues.

CALIFORNIA

Warm, sunny weather through 16th, with record-high temperatures at some central and south coastal stations. Light shower activity in San Joaquin Valley, southern Sierras, and south generally on 17th or 18th. Warm, sunny weather generally favorable for agricultural activities and vegetative growth over State.

COLORADO

Temperatures averaged slightly below normal in west to above elsewhere. Precipitation about one-half normal in central with drier conditions elsewhere, ranging down to very dry on eastern border. Vegetation generally backward, especially meadows and ranges. Irrigated crops coming along normally, but irrigation water short. Short period of hot, dry winds took additional toil of moisture.

IDAHO

Good week for crop growth and fieldwork with temperatures above normal in all sections. Chilly weather beginning of week, particularly nights and early mornings, gave way to unusually warm weather Wednesday through Saturday with maxima in 80's in all sections. Spring seeding not quite completed in north and extreme east.

Central, Bannock County May 12, 1956

Warm weather in the middle of April brought good spring feed to this area, but it has been unusually cold and stormy here since the first of May.

Prospects for feed on the summer range are good. We go onto the summer range about July 1.

Spring losses were not any greater than usual here, although we had some stiff lambs.

I usually lamb out about a 140 percent lamb crop.

I paid 43 cents per head to have my wool sheared. This rate includes shearing and sacking the wool.

I received 41 cents for my wool. Some is half-blood, some fine and some three-eighths.

—Emery Hanson

Salmon, Lemhi County May 13, 1956

The Lemhi wool pool sold for 44½ cents.

Condition of the lower ranges is better this year than last. All I have is Taylor grazing land. Feed prospects there are good.

There were about the same number of lambs saved in our flock per hundred ewes this year as last.

—Peter M. Hansen

MONTANA

Unseasonably warm. Little precipitation. Subsoil moisture generally adequate in western two-thirds, short in eastern third. More rain needed in north-central and east. Growth of range grass fair to good, decrease in supplemental feeding of livestock general. Sheep shearing well under way in farm flocks.

Chinook, Blaine County May 14, 1956

The contract rate for shearing here was 40 to 43 cents a head. This labor included everything but sorting and branding.

About 400,000 pounds of wool has been sold here of all grades. A 10,000 head pool sold at 45 cents. The three larger clips sold up to 50 cents.

Feed conditions are not as good as a year ago, due to the cold weather.

Some green grass is showing, but it is "washy" and feed value is poor.

Our sheep are moving now to the summer range. Prospects for feed there are good.

The number of lambs saved per hundred ewes is somewhat better than a year ago.

—J. L. Sprinkle Company

NEVADA

A few showers and cooler temperatures noted in west and central sections on 18th as weak, cold front, which rapidly dissipated, moved in from southwest.

NEW MEXICO

Warm, except unseasonably cool first day of period. A few light, scattered showers in west Sunday. Hay cutting in southern valleys progressing with good tonnage. Ranges and pastures generally dry with no new grass. Livestock in fair condition under supplemental feeding; considerable movement to higher elevations for range feeding.

May 20, 1956

Hope, Eddy County

All early shorn wool in this part of the country has been sold. The bulk sold from 40 to 45 cents or at \$1.25 clean basis, Boston. The contract rate for shearing here has been about 40 cents. We do no boarding, and this rate includes shearing and bagging.

A few scattered showers here since the first of May have failed to improve the range. Conditions are about the same as a year ago—dry. Drought and cold weather have prevented range grass growth. Supplemental feeding will be needed in the near future.

There may be a few more lambs saved per hundred ewes than a year ago.

A load of farm grown spring lambs sold as high as 25 cents a pound here.

Some fine-wooled yearling ewes have sold at from \$14 to \$18 per head out of the wool.

—J. P. Casabonne

Roswell, Chaves County

May 21, 1956

It has been very dry here. Conditions on the range are worse than a year ago. Feed on the spring range is fair—grass is trying to grow, but it is badly in need of rain.

We lost a few more sheep than usual from poison weed this spring.

Fat lambs have sold here at from 18 to 23 cents at the auction ring.

The contract rate for shearing without board is from 30 to 35 cents a head. This labor includes shearing, tying and packing.

Some half-blood to fine wool sold here at 38 to 51 cents. The lighter, coarse wools ran 46 to 50 cents.

—William C. Treat

OREGON

Maxima in 50's and 60's at beginning of period gradually climbed to 85 to 95 degrees by close, reaching or closely approaching record-breaking proportions at several points. Minima slightly below freezing in

much of central and extreme northeast on 13th, in middle to high 30's elsewhere. A few hundredths inch of precipitation at most reporting stations first two days. Generally fair, no rain, and abundance of sunshine last five days. Good development of all crops entire State.

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OREGON

Baker, Baker County
May 21, 1956

Our spring losses were lighter than usual this year.

There have been about 15 percent more lambs saved per hundred ewes than a year ago.

Range conditions have been very good since May 1. Feed is plentiful but is still not too matured. Our sheep go on the summer range on June 10, and prospects for feed there are good.

Offers of 19 cents and above have been made in this area for July delivery of fat lambs. One lot of mixed blackfaced and whitefaced lambs sold at \$17.50 for late August delivery. One lot of mixed blackfaced and Rambouillets (ewe lambs withheld) sold at \$18 for September delivery.

Shearers are being paid 30 cents per head with board; six cents for machinery; 2.5 cents each for tying and sacking; and \$10 a day for wranglers.

I know of one clip of mixed wool going at 43 cents and another (which I believe was finer) going at 46 cents. Some offers have been a little higher.

—Charles M. Colton

SOUTH DAKOTA

Warm, dry weather with highest temperatures since last September. Nighttime readings above freezing. Isolated thunder-showers, but no precipitation of consequence at most stations. Greater crop growth moderate to rapid. Small grain stands good. Pastures made good growth, but still short and many overgrazed.

TEXAS

Field work continued active as temperatures stimulated crop development. Rain in south-central, coastal, and some eastern counties helpful. Hay yields from oats light in central and east. First cuttings of alfalfa hay made in scattered areas. Cattle picking up on improved grass over eastern half of State, but supplemental feeding continues in dry areas. Yearlings and spring lambs moved in reasonably heavy volume out of the plateau.

UTAH

Below-freezing temperatures early in week. Temperatures in central Utah and Uinta Basin in middle 20's. In northern Utah temperatures less severe. In central Utah alfalfa damaged. Distinct warming trend early in week.

Coalville, Summit County
May 14, 1956

We just started lambing in this area. Weather has been cold and stormy, and grass is just starting to grow. Low ranges are fair, but growing hasn't begun on the higher ranges. Conditions, however, are better than a year ago.

Our sheep go on the summer range on June 25. There is a lot of snow there as yet, and it's hard to tell how conditions will be.

Some mixed grades of wool have been purchased here at 42½ cents, while some straight grades have sold from 43 to 47½ cents.

—William B. Young

WASHINGTON

Cool beginning of week, with slightly below-freezing temperatures and frost reported in several localities of east. Rapid rise in temperatures with afternoon readings 80 to 85 degrees in west and 85 to 95 degrees in east latter half of week. Scattered showers first of week; totals generally less than 1/10 inch in west and smaller amounts in east. Heavy rain and thunderstorm activity along Columbia River Gorge on Friday afternoon. Wheat, pastures, fruit and garden crops growing rapidly. First cutting of hay and silo filling beginning in south.

Burbank, Walla Walla County
May 12, 1956

We have had about 15 percent more lambs saved per hundred ewes this year than last.

I have only a small purebred Columbia flock on permanent pasture. Some offers of \$50 have been made here on purebred yearling ewes, but most growers are asking \$65.

Shearers are being paid 50 cents a head without board. All the wool in this vicinity goes to Portland for sale.

—D. H. Nelson

Sunnyside, Yakima County
May 18, 1956

I understand some wool has sold as low as 32 cents and from this up to 40 cents. Most of these wools run from half to three-eighths and some quarter blood.

Contract rate for shearing is 43 cents. That price puts the wool in the bag, and includes board.

Conditions on the range are about normal for this time of year and are better than a year ago. We go on the summer range about the 25th of May. Feed there should be normal.

We had no serious spring losses. Possibly there were fewer losses than are ordinary.

Last year I lambed no ewes, but I had a better than average lambing this year from two-year-old ewes.

Some mixed lots of lambs have sold for early August delivery, above 55 pounds at \$17.50 to \$18.

—Kenneth Mott

Twisp, Okanogan County
May 15, 1956

I have but a small farm flock of 50 head. They are mostly registered Hampshires and Suffolks.

Pasture here is one week late.

Our lambing percentage was about 147 percent this year—better than a year ago.

—Marshal A. Neubert

WYOMING

Cool first of week, becoming warmer latter half. Precipitation below normal, although good amounts received at scattered stations in north and east. Snow first of week and showers over weekend. Ranges and pastures greatly improved. Heavy use of irrigation water in Big Horn Basin.

Midwest, Natrona County
May 20, 1956

Range here is in good shape. We run in pasture.

The number of lambs saved here per hundred ewes is better than a year ago.

The contract rate for shearing without board is 45 cents. This includes tying, tramping and shearing.

We sold our '56 clip for 48 cents net. The wool is in very nice condition and is clean.

—Taylor Ranch Company
Glenn Taylor

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The National Wool Grower



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AUGUST 16-17, 1956

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- AUGUST 17 - Fourth National Wool Show

